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No. 35697

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1953.

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COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Colonies

THE British Government emerged successfully from the House of Commons controversy over colonial policy, not only in the matter of voting figures, but in the debate. The Socialist insistence that the Tories in general, and Mr. Oliver Lyttelton in particular, have made a complete boss-shot of colonial affairs since coming to power was not convincing and, in truth, the Government had a relatively easy task in replying to such generalised accusations. With some truth the periodical, The Spectator, has observed that, thanks to the Opposition, recent debates on colonial affairs have had an air of unreality. In some of the colonies there is unrest; that is real; but before rushing in to condemn the Government without seriously troubling to work out why it should do so the Opposition would be better employed trying to put the trouble in perspective. The common factor is clear enough. It is the growing force of nationalist spirit which, while quite properly demanding recognition, still requires guidance and the orderly processes of evolution to give it the quality of self-reliance and balanced political judgment. It has been Britain's policy for many years to develop, educate and guide its dependencies towards attainment of these qualities, and this policy is being pursued by the present Government with just as much determination as that of its predecessor. Britain's policies towards its dependencies come well on the whole out of any examination. Mistakes have been made and there will be others. These are aspects which should be criticised in Parliament. But the policies, being followed today are true in general to the spirit of "trusteeship" which informs them. The grant of \$11 millions to Kenya (a little less than half of which will go to the development of African agriculture during the next five years) is an example. Such policies must be maintained with firmness and tact in the face of nationalism, no matter how intemperate, until economic and social development on the one hand, and political development on the other, meet at the point where power may be handed over to a society mature enough and strong enough to handle it.

UNPRECEDENTED FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Fifth Ballot Required

LANIEL HOLDS ON TO SLENDER LEAD

Versailles, Dec. 18. For the second successive ballot, the French Premier, M. Joseph Laniel, who represents the Independent Conservatives, emerged in the lead tonight as the Congress of Versailles (the Council of the Republic and the National Assembly) ended two days of voting in an effort to find a new President of the French Republic in succession to President Vincent Auriol. But M. Laniel's lead over his Socialist opponent, M. Marcel Edmond Naegelen, who has openly declared his opposition to a European army, fell far short of the absolute majority required and a fifth ballot — unprecedented in French history — will have to take place.

With only M. Laniel and M. Naegelen in the race, the official voting figures on the fourth ballot, which took place at 8.46 p.m. GMT and ended at 10.12 p.m. GMT, were: Laniel (Independent), 408; Naegelen (Socialist), 344. Trailing behind the two leading candidates were: Jean Medecin (Radical), 45; Yvon Delbos (Radical), 43; Andre Cornu (Radical), 35; others, 44. Ten ballots were declared invalid. Total number of votes was 928. The absolute majority required was 460.

It was announced that the fifth ballot would take place at 1 p.m. GMT tomorrow (Saturday). Officially, there were only two candidates in the race — M. Laniel and M. Naegelen. Earlier, the Radical candidate, M. Yvon Delbos, had withdrawn his name. This caused a flurry of excitement in Radical ranks and several deputations called on aged French Radical leader, M. Edouard Herriot, who is President of the National Assembly.

M. Delbos was among the groups calling on M. Herriot. Also visiting the Assembly President were M. Joseph Laniel, M. Leon Maritand-Deplat, the Minister of the Interior, M. Pierre Mendes-France, M. Charles Brune, M. Gaston Monnerville and M. Rene Mayer.

After conferring with the titular head of the Radicals, the various Radical groups held further meetings as the time for the fourth ballot drew near. Finally, the name of M. Andre Cornu, a member of the Council of the Republic (Senate) and Secretary of State for Fine Arts, was put forward as the official Radical candidate in place of M. Delbos. But it was understood that M. Cornu had expressed his opposition to standing in the race. Amid this intense political activity, the scene was being

prepared for the fourth ballot, which all observers indicated would be indecisive, especially with several unofficial candidates to challenge the two leaders, M. Laniel and M. Naegelen. As the Radicals and other groups met in feverish conferences, the balloting was postponed until decisions had been made, but finally, amid loud applause from packed galleries, the members of the two Houses took their seats in the historic Chateau de Versailles as the clock was approaching 9 p.m. GMT.

GREAT TENSION
The session went on until after midnight in an atmosphere of great tension and the final results, as they were announced, caused bitter disappointment in many groups in this, perhaps the most momentous French Presidential election of all times.

Great applause greeted the announcement that M. Laniel had headed the poll and when it had died down, the President of the Congress, M. Andre Lefevre, asked the Senators and Deputies at what time they wished to hold the fifth ballot. An Independent Deputy proposed that the ballot should take place immediately, but, in the face of strong protests, a standing vote was taken, resulting in the defeat of the proposal. It was then decided that the fifth ballot would be held at 1 p.m. GMT on Saturday.

—France-Press.

MPs Forget Their Quarrels And Disperse For Xmas

London, Dec. 18. Members of Parliament put their political squabbles into cold storage tonight and dispersed to their constituencies for a month.

Sir Winston Churchill held a Cabinet meeting before leaving for Chartwell, his private country house, to relax.

His Christmas celebrations will be brief for ahead lies the four power Foreign Ministers' conference in Berlin, which the Western Powers have proposed should open on January 4.

Before then there will be much ministerial coming and going between London and Chequers, Churchill's official out of town retreat. He moves there on Tuesday for the Christmas week.

Churchill is confident that his government has entered its third year of office with its credit enhanced. His experts compute that in 1953 there has been a slight swing of votes to the Conservatives.

His economic advisers point out that Britain's position in the world and at home continues to improve.

HIGHEST EVER
The Conservatives claim that industrial production has reached the highest ever.

Churchill can look forward without undue anxiety to the resumption of Parliament next month though some conservative legislation is foreseen.

Sir Winston has the assurance of his managers that the Government's domestic troubles are dying down.

Most serious was the "revolt" by about 40 of his own party on the Suez Canal Zone's future. There were also two lesser internal Conservative upheavals over First World War officers' pensions and Government plans to introduce commercial television.

Mr. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, made clear in a foreign affairs debate yesterday that the Government would not give in to the Suez "rebels" who demanded that negotiations with Egypt should be suspended.

The Labour Opposition had made attacks on the Government's Colonial policy. Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary, however earned praise from Conservative and Independent newspapers for the defence he put up in debates on British Guiana, Buganda and an unsuccessful Labour "no confidence" motion on the Government's Africa policy in general.

The Africa censure motion stemmed from an earlier debate on the Government decision to depose the Kabaka of Buganda for failing to "co-operate loyally" with Britain. The Kabaka was ruler of a million Africans.

STATURE RAISED
Conservatives say public reaction to the Colonial debates has raised rather than damaged the stature of Mr. Lyttelton, whom many Socialists regard as

the "Iron Man" and accuse of a lack of sympathy with Africa's problems.

Sir Winston's economic advisers, referring to the improvement in Britain's position at home, said the figure of the sterling area gold and dollar reserves as a whole improved in November at \$2,915 million. This was the highest level since the autumn of 1951, when Sir Winston Churchill took over from the Labour Government.

—Reuter.

Dakota Crash-Lands

Rome, Dec. 18. A British twin-engined Dakota airliner carrying 27 passengers — including 13 children — made a crash-landing in Sardinia tonight after limping over the Mediterranean Sea on one engine for over an hour.

None of the passengers was injured, Sardinian police reported.

The Dakota was flying from London to Malta. The children were on their way to spend their Christmas holidays from school with their parents, according to Rome Radio.

The airliner forlanded at a village just south of Sassari.

A report telephoned by police in the area to the authorities at the island's capital said one engine spluttered and stop some 120 miles off Sardinia.

With the Tyrrhenian Sea beneath him, the pilot flew on. His other engine began to fail alarmingly as he sighted the Sardinian coast.

While his co-pilot joked with the passengers the pilot brought the crippled plane down to a perfect emergency landing to a disused airstrip, police reported. Spare parts are being flown from Britain and the airliner will be repaired before continuing its journey, they said.

US FREEZES

New York, Dec. 18. Icy weather froze the mechanism operating traffic lights and caused traffic jams along Broadway and fashionable Fifth Avenue today.

Police were called out to direct traffic by hand while repairs were made.

Freezing continued over the United States today, even down to Florida. —Reuter.

Fog Delays Chusan's Sailing

London, Dec. 18. The Peninsular Orient liner Chusan (24,215 tons) was one of several liners delayed from sailing for the Far East when thick fog shrouded most of Britain today.

The thick fog dislocated rail, sea and air traffic.

At London airport, afternoon visibility was 100 yards on the runway. At other places at the airport it was only 10 yards and traffic remained at a standstill. There has been no flying in or out since last night. —Reuter.

BABY WITH TWO STOMACHS

Indianapolis, Dec. 18. A baby born with two heads and four arms also has two stomachs, doctors said today.

The boy, now six days old, continued in a "satisfactory" condition at Riley Children's Hospital, but the infant required almost constant medical attention.

Dr. John Van Nuy, Dean of the Indiana University Medical Centre, said that examinations showed the presence of two stomachs in the abnormally formed body. He said it was uncertain whether any other organs were duplicated.

The intestines join below the two stomachs, he said.

Dr. Van Nuy said it was not known how long the baby would remain in the hospital. He said that the parents could take the baby home "if and when" the child's condition was such that it did not require constant medical attention.

At present, he said, there were no plans for immediate release. —United Press.

Concubine's Son, Ruling

Ottawa, Dec. 18. The Canadian Supreme Court today ruled that the son of a Chinese concubine could be considered eligible for admission to Canada as an immigrant.

The nine members of the court unanimously affirmed a British Columbia court judgment that a concubine's son could, under the Chinese code, be made legitimate by the father's acknowledgment.

It rejected a government appeal that such a child must be considered illegitimate and therefore ineligible for admission as an immigrant.

Between 300 and 400 Chinese will be affected by the ruling.

The court ordered the Immigration Department to consider the entry of Leung Ba-chai, son of Leong Hung-sing, 60-year-old cook living in Vancouver.

When Leong Hung-sing went back to China to visit his home he took a woman into his household. She bore him two children, one of them Leong Ba-chai.

He acknowledged parenthood and sent money to China when he returned to Canada.

After becoming a Canadian citizen in 1951 he asked permission to bring his son to this country. —Reuter.

20 Million People To See Hongkong On Television

By ROBIN HUTCHEON

Early next year, an estimated 20 million American people will see Hongkong — starting from a Peak view of the harbour, travelling through Queen's Road at its busiest, passing the modern "skyscraper" banks in the city, and so down to the poorest refugee resettlement area — all through the eyes of a Columbia Broadcasting System television camera.

In a film feature lasting about 20 minutes the Columbia Broadcasting System will show viewers the life and problems of Hongkong and the film will include interviews with a number of prominent members of the community.

It will give viewers a glimpse of Hongkong's refugee problems and show what the Administration is doing to alleviate the hardship of these people. It will peep "behind the bamboo curtain" — as CBS news correspondent Edmund Scott said — and give American viewers a close-up of the people of Hongkong who daily cross the Chinese border to visit friends or to work.

In the last 10 days the CBS team which includes cameraman, Leo Rossi, and sound engineer, Bob Huttenlocher of New York, has shot more than 18,000 feet of sound film with their two 35-millimetre cameras.

CAPTURING FLAVOUR

We've tried to capture the flavour of Hongkong — from the junks and fishing boats which sail about the harbour to the busy street scenes. There seem to be people always on the move, an endless stream of traffic, miles of neon light in Chinese characters. We've taken the two big banks — the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank — with its conventional bronze British lions outside and the Bank of China with its characteristic Chinese lions in granite. Also, we've interviewed a number of people around town on the economy and problems of the colony," said Mr. Scott.

"For instance, from Mr. F.P. Franklin (Managing Director of the South China Morning Post, Ltd., we learned something of the economy of Hongkong. We wanted to find out from a Chinese student what was his opinion of America's policy on Chinese students. The man we interviewed had a gripe about the way America wanted to give Chinese students studying in the US, exit permits.

"This student said something like one-third of the Chinese studying in America wanted to go back to the Chinese mainland."

"From various Government officials we learned what you are trying to do about that awfully tough problem of refugees. We saw the resettlement at Rennie's Mill and the attempts of the Government to improve conditions in some of the worst resettlement areas. "From people crossing the border into Red China we tried

to find out what conditions were like over there and how the people were faring."

The film will be shown in the CBS programme "See it now" and the commentary will be by Mr. Scott and one of America's best-known television — radio commentators, Edward R. Murrow.

NBC ALSO HERE

The lull in the fighting in Indo-China and the comparative calm in Korea has brought another American television cameraman to Hongkong. Robert Hecox of the National Broadcasting Corporation.

Like the Columbia team, Mr. Hecox has been mainly interested in the refugee problem and resettlement.

"It was quite surprised that people were allowed to cross the border into China. It is one of the few places in the world where people can cross into Communist countries apparently without hindrance and get back again," said Mr. Hecox.

"In my film, I tried to show the contrast between some of the poorer flimsy quarters which some refugees are living in and some of the better places which the Government has built for the refugees."

"I took pictures of junk life in the harbour — American people can't realise what that is like. I also took shots of the police at work in Hongkong."

Mr. Hecox's films are for the NBC's daily television newscast.

Policeman On Perjury Charge

Kansas City, Dec. 18. Elmer Dolan, suspended St. Louis policeman, was indicted today on a perjury charge by a Federal grand jury investigating the missing Greenpeace ransom money.

Dolan, who appeared twice before the jury, the last time this afternoon, was named in the four-page indictment which charged he made a false statement about the handling of suitcases containing the ransom money when kidnapper Carl Austin Hall was arrested last October. —Reuter.

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Queen And Duke Fly To Tonga

Suva, Dec. 19. Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh left Suva by flying boat for Tonga in the Friendly Islands at 9 a.m., local time today (Saturday). —Reuter.



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MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FILMS—CURRENT AND COMING

By MARGARET BRUCE

This coming week brings Christmas and many exciting films to the Colony. Probably the chief disappointment is the failure of the QUEEN'S and ALHAMBRA to produce "THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE" in time.

I had promised myself, and my daughter, a fine swashbuckling colourful hour or two here, in Yuletide storybook style, but instead we're going to be visited by Barbara Stanwyck and Gary Cooper in "BLOWING WILD."

This is an action picture, it's true. Set in the Mexican oilfields, where Miss Stanwyck bought shares in a well and earned herself the local nickname of Barbarita, an indignity for such an obviously veteran actress.

Mr Cooper, too. He's such a dear and once was the central heartbeat of the glamour of movies. Now we are forced to watch him grow old ungracefully and pitifully.

Anthony Quinn, one of Hollywood's best actors, plays the part of Miss Stanwyck's husband, to whom she is not only faithful but finally murders. Yes, it's Barbara the Bad again, frankly in search of an Oscar. Ruth Roman provides Mr Cooper with a rather purr love than that of his affair with the villainess.

There are love scenes most suitably described as "torrid". In one of them, Quinn makes advances to Miss Stanwyck, which are at first rejected. Then she changes her mind. I believe that the first time they shot this the result proved "too hot to handle" so they had to cut the passion by about 50 per cent.

I would have preferred the deletion of the entire scene. But it will no doubt prove an attraction.

There is also a holocaust of burning oil and bandits and bullets. And, publicity states, real mahogany beams and multi-coloured ceramics, which many will fail to find a consolation. Oh, I nearly forgot, Frankie Laine sings the new ballad, "Blowing Wild," as background music, an earnest attempt at a repetition of his success in High Noon. But imitations are never good artistically, and movie moguls will never believe it.

"STRAIGHT" HOPE
The KING'S after "LET'S DO IT AGAIN," will be showing a Chinese picture, and then their Christmas offering is "MILITARY POLICEMEN." Do not expect a riot of hilarious comedy from this Bob

Hope, Mickey Rooney film. Bearing this very firmly in mind you will get a great deal of enjoyment from it.

It is, rather obviously, of particular appeal to all members of the Armed Services, and also to anyone interested in boxing. Bob has a far "straighter" role than is usual for him, and is even allowed a glimmer of intelligence in the part of a Coach who is tricked into joining up and, once in the army, is forced by circumstances to groom Mickey Rooney for the Ring—success is assured, of course, but their path runs far from smooth.

The dialogue is witty and fast moving, and—as you would expect—very expertly handled. But I think what gave me the most pleasure were the thumbnail character sketches in one or two of the minor roles.

The professional Champion Boxer is a refreshingly humorous caricature, so, too, is the earnest, ambitious officer who models himself on Napoleon. These two characterisations are, alone, worth the price of your seat if you are really interested in films and film-acting.

There is very little singing, and what there is centres round the very blonde Marilyn Maxwell. Mickey Rooney's great personality carries his part and even lends it a conviction, whilst Bob as always is a delightful and irresistible clown.

The little snippet that they sing together, has the utmost polish, and their voices blend in a way that makes one hope for more. You should find this an enjoyable show.

STATIC HAYDEN

The EMPIRE plan to fit in "KANSAS PACIFIC" somewhere before indulging in "MILITARY POLICEMEN," although it is a little difficult to figure out just how and where. Or why.

In the words of a popular song the love story in this film is as "corny as Kansas" in August. Stirling Hayden is utterly static as far as visible emotions, other than a few, are concerned.

As a young man he broke into pictures many years ago with a spectacular success, and then left again for a long time whilst he served his first love, the sea, during which time he had a distinguished War Career. This is praiseworthy on its own account but does nothing for his training as an actor. I can remember him, blonde and beautiful, with Madeleine Carroll in "BAHAMAS PASSAGE." It is alarming to see the toll of passing time.

I suppose, when making a film, the makers consider carefully what could be added as an improvement. In this film if they had considered what they could leave out it would have made the difference between mediocrity and a drama with impact.



Cyd Charisse and Fred Astaire as they appear in "The Bandwagon"

The subject calls for it—Kansas, a border state, torn by two loyalties just prior to the Civil War; and running through the middle of this ominous condition the centre of dispute—this is a man's picture, and as such could have been remarkable. But a love-story has to be added, with another of those moon-faced, bad-mannered girls up in amongst the fighting. She certainly serves no decorative purpose, and no one appears to be more conscious of the redundancy of the love scenes than Mr Hayden.

The colour is soft and good, but do have a laugh at the backdrop against which the scene in the General's office is acted. If you are interested in track-laying you'll love this film.

OH, THE NOISE!

When "LATIN LOVERS" has finished what I guessed would be a fairly popular run, the CAPITAL and LIBERTY are going to show "THE BANDWAGON." I wanted to like this film—I tried very hard. And certainly it's the most pretentious musical we've seen—for some time, also the most suitable for the whole family at this holiday time. But oh, the noise! It is played with such punch that it leaves the audience battered and bruised.

My chief disappointment is the dance team of Cyd Charisse and Fred Astaire. They cancel one another out. Let us face it. In spite of an attempt in the plot to laugh it off, she is too tall for him.

He disappears. And really, you know, he doesn't dance much by himself these days. (What a week this is for Veteran Actors.) Meanwhile she seems clumsy and heavy against him. No, they must never do it again.

Jack Buchanan makes a welcome appearance as a slightly mad impresario, and his original appearance in a skit on Olivier's "Oedipus Rex" is the best thing in the show and worth a visit in itself.

The numbers are all old. Amongst them there is Louis Lane's brilliant song by an unimpressive comedienne called Nanette Fabray, and Triplets, a song once performed at a charity show in London by the Oliviers and Danny Kaye. Kaye has made an excellent recording of it, too.

I have often heard wonderment expressed that such a talented girl as Cyd Charisse, and so beautiful too, should have remained in comparative obscurity. See this film and you'll know why. But it'll be by far the gayest thing showing.

PHOTO OPERA

I should think that more interest will be centred on "THE BEGGAR'S OPERA," than any other film town, with the exception of "THE ROBE." Let us consider the credits to begin with. Produced by Herbert Wilcox and Laurence Olivier (the only possible reason for him getting the part, and why, why, why?), directed by Peter Brook, the highly acclaimed Junior Genius of the Theatre, music by Sir Arthur Bliss, which is delightful but rather monotonous, additional dialogue by Christopher Fry, and spiky and witty and apt it is.

This is literally a photographed Opera. Another of those damned flashbacks, and then off we go with a fal-lal-ay. As an artistic effort the film should be seen. It's produced in muted and lovely colour, with a Hogarthian devotion to detail, and bawdy subject matter, that that artist would have loved.

This satirical story of Captain Macleath the Highwayman moves at a fast pace, and caused the London Critics (like the players) to sing songs. I can't say I am afraid that I am forced to say something that I never thought would enter my mind. It is ruined by Olivier.

At moments he is his superb self, acting in turn with immaculate gaiety and power, and then, again, blank gleam comes into his eye and he raises an unpleasant bathroom baritone in a Tah-ran-ran-boom-dee-ay which is merely embarrassing. In its careful "emulation" but not as embarrassing as the "emulation" of the "emulation." There must be a better way of taking riding than this? It's all a part of the astonishing Olivier enigma. Lady Olivier (Vivian Leigh) is the most glamorous and seductive figure and the most

film star of our day. She is perfectly beautiful and takes the intimate direction of film making excellently well. Her husband is the best stage actor we have.

But no; she has to become an actress, and has proved only mediocrity doing it. What is worse, she has also ruined many a performance by Sir Laurence, as anyone who has seen him toning himself down to her on the stage must surely agree. And now he has become a cross between Douglas Fairbanks Senior and Johnny Ray. I regard it all as a primary tragedy.

Most of the cast have allowed themselves to be dubbed with very good singing voices, and, although it causes them some blushes, it is pleasing to the ear. Dorothy Tutin, one of England's less successful "ands", gives another self-conscious performance as Polly Penchum, although she proves a good foil to Daphne Anderson as Lucy Locket.

I think you should see this film, because it's both controversial and an important new achievement in style.

DIFFICULT SUBJECT

I gave you full details of "VICKI" (Roxey and Broadway) last week and I will not be able to talk to you about "THE ROBE" in details until next week because there has not been a preview.

It was a fascinating book but a very difficult subject. Certainly one that requires delicacy in handling. The stars are Jean Simmons and Richard Burton as the Roman who superintends the Crucifixion and who wins Christ's robe after ear-splitting bids for it. He is terminated by remorse until he is finally converted to Christianity.

Victor Mature puts in an appearance as the slave. This film is breaking box-office records all over the world. It seems I don't know how much of this is due to the fact that it introduces Cinema-scope.

The management of the KING'S has told me that their group of cinemas have some very fine or at least noteworthy movies in store for us. "SCARLET THOMPSON," starring Rita Hayworth in 3D, gives us a revival of the old play "Rain," and should prove more than merely spectacular. This is coming on at the New Year. They also have a Martin and Lewis film called "SCARED STIFF," and "MELBA" in store.

I have news this week of some RKO Radio Pictures that have been completed and will be released in Hongkong in the foreseeable future. "DESCAMERON NIGHTS" has been confirmed to be shown at the LEE and GREAT WORLD Theatres during the New Year holidays, and I'm sure we all anticipate it eagerly. The stars are Joan Fontaine, Louis Jourdan and Binnie Barnes.

There is also "DEVIL'S CANYON" with Virginia Mayo and Dale Robertson. "APPOINTMENT IN HONDURAS" starring Ann Sheridan, Glenn Ford and Zachary Scott, "MARRY ME AGAIN" which stars Marie Wilson and Robert Cummings, and Walt Disney's live show, "THE SWORD AND THE ROSE."

This last mentioned picture will be on at the opening of the new HOOVER theatre in Causeway Bay during Chinese New Year, and at the same time, at the MAJESTIC in Kowloon. The stars are Glynnis Johns and Richard Todd.

It is the story of Henry VIII's wilful young sister Mary, who refuses to conform to the plans made for her, and who falls in love with an adventurous young commoner called Charles Brandon.

Charles feels his cause to be hopeless, sets sail, closely followed by Mary. However, the King catches up with them, and Charles is sent to the Tower. In exchange for his life, Mary promises to marry the French King, decrepit Louis XII, but plans to marry Charles when he dies.

However, that is when the trouble really starts. I'm not sure about the historical accuracy of this picture, but it is going to be exciting and colourful.

Several films are being edited by RKO prior to their release. "SON OF SINBAD" with Dale Robertson, "THE FRENCH LINE" with Jane Russell, and "CARNIVAL STORY" with Ann Baxter and Steve Cochran. "JET PILOT" with Janet Leigh and John Wayne, and "RANGERS OF THE NORTH" with J. P. Fier and John Wayne.

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Interesting News Stories From All Parts Of The World

Family Escape From Behind Iron Curtain In An "Oxygen Cell"

Wels, Austria.
A Czech grandfather and his family who escaped through the Iron Curtain in a rail-borne "oxygen cell" will be sent to the United States at US Government expense, it was announced.
Bendrich Cech, 52, his son, pregnant daughter-in-law and two tiny grandchildren nearly died during seven days of horror inside the black airtight cell they built in a railway cargo of lumber to conceal themselves from Communist border police and dogs.

Cech told reporters that the family's "greatest dream" was to join his daughter, Vlasta, who married an American soldier, Ronald K. Brown, and now lives at Earlham, Iowa.

The "Tanner" Comes Into Its Own

London.
The humble British penny piece seems to be entering the dollar-earning ranks for Britain.

The trade started when Americans in Britain—particularly servicemen—started sending "lucky sixpences" back home.

The idea apparently caught on. The homefolk started asking for more.

The Royal Mint here said there was no apparent shortage of sixpences, but some banks said there had been a noticeable decrease in circulation.

Large numbers were going to America.

Recent American arrivals said jewellers and trades people specialising in wedding parties, particularly in Boston, Massachusetts, had devised a new form of wedding gift based on the old jingle "something old something new and a sixpence in your shoe."

Banks here agreed that if the idea became nationwide in America the little dime-sized coin could very well become a dollar earner.—United Press.

An Expensive Operation

Paris.
When southern wine makers jolted out the barrel last August and blocked roads to protest their collapsing market, the government sent squads of elite Republican security guards to "maintain order".
Two Socialist Assembly deputies asked the defunct government how much it cost to move the guards, who stayed out of sight during the peaceful one-day demonstration.
Recently they had their answer: 10,000,000 francs (\$140,000).—United Press.

New Theory On How Earth Was Formed

Chicago.
A "glue" made up of water, ammonia, and hydrocarbons cemented together primeval particles of dust to form the earth millions of years ago, according to a new theory advanced today.

Dr Harold C. Urey, discoverer of "heavy water" and one of the developers of the atomic bomb, expounded his theory of a chemical bond which helped to form the earth in furtherance of a hypothesis he offered recently on the creation of the universe.

Urey believes the heavenly bodies were formed from swirling clouds of cosmic dust which eventually bopped together to form planets and suns.

In a lecture recently, Urey—distinguished service professor of chemistry at the University of Chicago—said the cosmic dust cemented together at low temperatures to form large objects similar to meteorites or asteroids which still wander about the sun.

Then the objects went through a period of heat in which "fractionation" took place, separating two main groups of compounds found in the universe. Groups of iron compounds were preserved in the interior of the astral bodies. Rocky compounds containing silica were evaporated and lost.

INTO SPACE

Also lost during this period were hydrogen, helium and neon along with most of the original water, nitrogen and carbon which emanated into space as methane gas.

Then the large objects fused together to form the earth. But some collided with the then-forming moon to create the huge craters still seen on the satellite's face.

Urey's theory disagrees with others which say the earth went through a period of heat so intense that the planet initially was a molten mass.

The fact that some of the more volatile chemical elements in both the iron and the stony compounds were retained on earth indicates that these elements must have condensed out at temperature not much greater, and perhaps lower, than those presently existing on earth.—United Press.

The Crows Create A Poser

Munich.
A band of banana-oiled, whisky drinking crows, defeated the mighty United States Air Force recently.

The Air Force called for reinforcements to launch a counter-attack.

The sudden crows appear to have become addicted to banana oil (Amyl Acetate) contained in a fabric used to protect Air Force parts at the 317th Maintenance Group here.

Scarcely were the crows released on them after banana-oil jags.

A wise sergeant suggested dunking bread in whisky to get the crows so plastered they could be picked up by hand.

That was for the birds. They loved it lapped it up and flapped happily away.

Shotguns are out because of the valuable equipment which might be punctured.

The latest proposal is to follow the flock with a helicopter and shoot them down—out of range of the air base.—United Press.

STOLE BURGLAR ALARM

London.
Burglars raided a branch post office and made off with the burglar alarm.

They also took a safe, stamps and savings certificates, police said.

A witness who was not identified, said he saw a man leaving the post office with a "square object" under his arm making a buzzing sound.

Police said this was the burglar alarm.—United Press.

HARNESSING SOLAR ENERGY

Washington.
A Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientist said recently that solar energy has been developed as America's "ace in the hole" to replace present power sources in an emergency.

The scientist, Dr H. C. Hottel, said the virtually unlimited energy of the sun could be harnessed "right away" if present power sources were cut off.

He spoke at a three-day meeting here of the Mid-Century Conference on resources for the future. He headed a discussion group on "unconventional" energy sources.

"We have enough knowledge to build a solar power plant," he said, pointing out that the sun's energy already has been successfully tapped to heat houses.

Hottel said scientists now are seeking to develop a "photo-cell" which could "generate power from the sun directly" without the necessity of a more elaborate power plant.

As a power source, he said, solar energy is not economically feasible except in an emergency because its production cost is about twice that of power from conventional fuels.

Solar and atomic energy were among special topics taken up by the conference which has been marked by controversies over how much control the Federal Government should have over resources. Five of the 38 sponsoring organizations withdrew earlier because they said it was "stacked" in favour of private industry.

The \$200,000 conference is financed by the Ford Foundation.

OTHER SUBJECTS
Discussions included use and development of land and water resources and United States concern with world resources and research.

Rep. Wesley D'Ewart (Republican, Montana) Chairman of the House Public Lands Sub-Committee, called for greater use of federally controlled lands by private interests, especially for grazing, and for greater local control of public lands.

"Fundamentally, I believe that whenever possible, private responsibility for protection of land is best for this country," D'Ewart said. He is sponsor of pending legislation to revamp public land laws.

Judge Robert Sawyer, Editor of the Bend, Oregon, Bulletin, said however, that control of public lands already has been undermined by insufficient appropriations to administer them.

"Today the users have the upper hand," Sawyer told the conference. "Private profit use rather than public service use predominates."

"Influence is at work to reduce the extent of forest service control," Sawyer charged. "There is no proposal to give controls to anyone. The plan is to cut down on the forest service authority—to the its hands."—United Press.

During last month's army manoeuvres, Pvt. Cole was ordered to "guard until relieved" some potatoes on the banks of the Rhine River near Glinshelm.

The manoeuvres ended and no one came to relieve Cole. Two cold days and nights later, his rations ran out.

Pvt. Cole was still firmly on guard. It rained.

Sympathetic Glinshelmers brought sandwiches, sausages and beverages to keep him going. They told him the manoeuvres were over and all the soldiers had gone home.

Pvt. Cole shifted his ponderous GI shoes and just squared his jaw.

Four cold nights and four cold days later, someone in the 18th Infantry Regiment remembered that Cole had not been relieved. They sent a truck out and brought back the numbed GI who had been on guard for six days and nights.

Col. Robert H. Schultz, Cote's Commanding officer, praised the youth. "A strong sense of duty, judgment and dependability you displayed are the characteristics so valued and sought for in the Army."

Cote's buddies just shook their heads.—United Press.

Undergrads' Prank

Oxford.
Tradition-bound Oxford University has sternly rusticated a 19-year-old coed who violated the Hallowell Inner Sanctum of a men's college dressed in male attire.

Her crime was sneaking into the staid Dining Hall of Lincoln College where by ancient custom only gowned members of the college may sit down to eat among historic tapestries and portraits.

The sentence was immediate rustication—which is suspension for the rest of the term.

College authorities said the girl, slim, Felicity Cooper of St Hilda's College, invaded the hall with the aid of a boyfriend. The accomplice, Jeremy Rundell, already was rusticated.

He addressed her as a "young friend from the country" and gave her a boyish haircut and male attire. She also was undisciplined.

Later word of the prank reached authorities.—United Press.

MADE TO LEARN RUSSIAN

Budapest.
Children from the age of ten have to learn Russian in Hungarian schools, according to the Government news agency MTI.

In schools children of the fifth grade learn the language, and special courses have been arranged "in accordance with the request of parents" for pupils of lower classes.—United Press.

"Lake City" Disappears

Boyle, Ireland.
An 8,000-year-old "Lost Lake City" of the Stone Age at nearby Lako Gara has disappeared again beneath winter rains and probably won't be found until summer.

Irish archaeologist Dr Joseph Rafter led an excavation party earlier this year into the lake area and claimed to have found relics of the Stone, Bronze and Ice Ages.

Remains of a dwelling built on stilts supporting a timber-made house, crude stone fish spears, tools, ornaments and jewellery were reported found. Examination of clay around some of the relics was believed to have indicated they were left here between 5,000 and 8,000 years ago, it was claimed.

Dr Rafter, who is Keeper of Irish Antiquities at Ireland's National Museum, said the excavations probably indicate the lake area was a site for "a seasonal fishing station or a mooring place for boats."

He plans to return next summer when the waters subside to continue his study of this link with the past.—United Press.

Divorce Grounds

Chicago.
Raymond Christianson, 52, won a divorce on desertion grounds recently after testifying that he came home last Dec. 22 to find his wife, daughter and every article of furniture in the house gone.—United Press.

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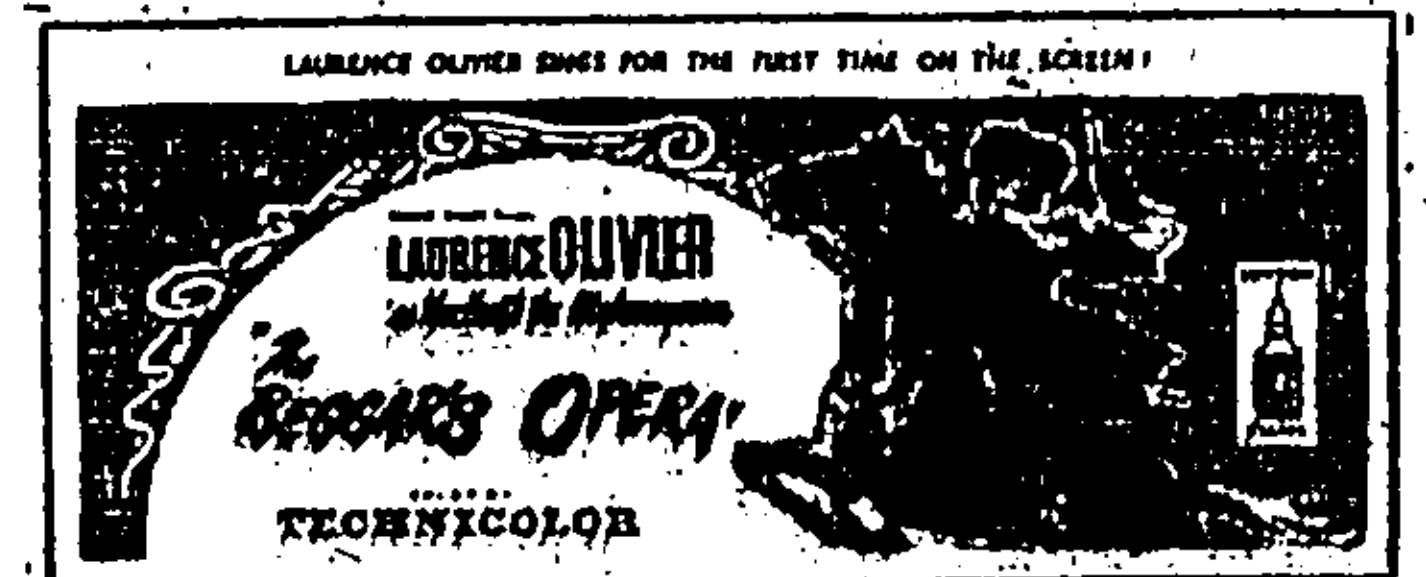
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★ 1953: AN EVENTFUL YEAR ★



JUNE 2—for British people, historically the most significant date of the year, a date marking a new era. Still fresh in the memory are scenes of the colourful Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey. The final scene above shows Queen Elizabeth II, wearing the Imperial State Crown and carrying the Orb and Sceptre, leaving the Abbey. (Express)



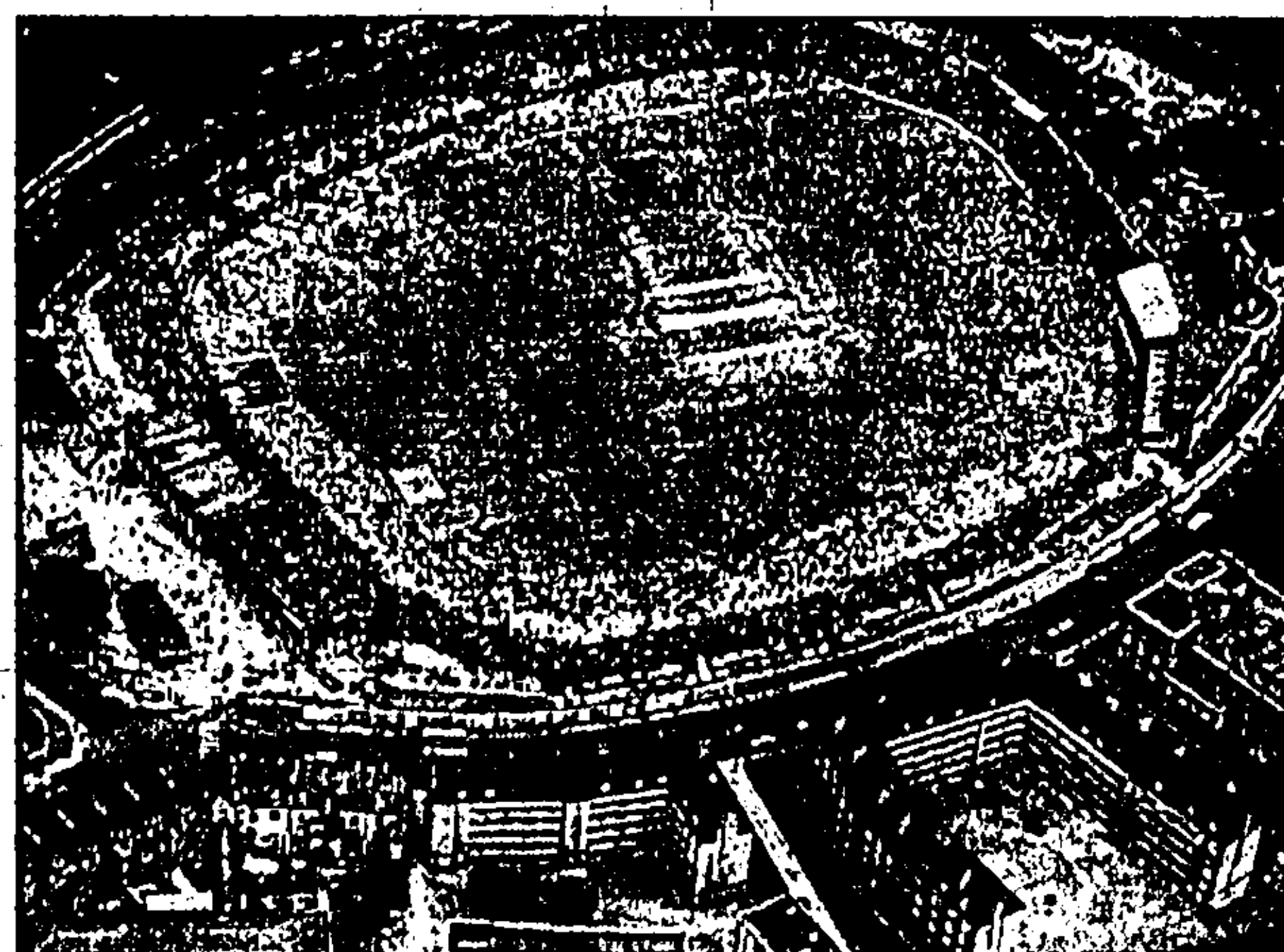
AND as a Coronation gift, a glorious achievement, symbolising the new Elizabethan spirit—the conquest of Everest. The news came on Coronation morning to stir the imagination of all men. Sherpa Tensing, who reached the top together with Sir Edmund Hillary (right), holds aloft the ice pick which he had earlier planted on the summit of Everest, as the expedition's leader, Sir John Hunt (left) looks on. (Express)



ANOTHER important date was January 20, when General Dwight D. Eisenhower was sworn in as President of the United States of America. (Express)



THE year was not without tragedy. The forces of nature wreaked great havoc. Earthquakes completely devastated the Greek islands of Zante, Cephalonia and Ithaca. (Express)



AND great news in the world of sport! England regained the Ashes. The jubilant crowd mobs the England cricketers at the Oval. (Express)



THE year has seen considerable unrest in Kenya. This is the courtroom scene during the trial of 69 Kikuyu tribesmen accused of Mau Mau activities. (Express)



ON March 5, one of the most controversial figures of the 20th century, Marshal Stalin, Soviet Russian dictator, died. (Express)



IN late January, the East Coast of Britain and the coast of Holland were ravaged by the most severe floods for several hundred years. Picture of submerged Canvey Island, in the Thames Estuary.



SIR Gordon Richards won the Derby on Pinza — his first win in 28 tries. He is seen being congratulated by the Queen. (Express)



A happy event for many families was the truce in Korea and the return home of hundreds of British prisoners of war. Scene on the repatriation ship Asturias. (Express)



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By Ernie Bushmiller



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CAPTAIN T. B. STONEY, DFC, PILOT OF A BOAC COMET AIRLINER IN ACTUAL FLIGHT, INTRODUCED THE QUEEN IN LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS DAY BROADCAST. WYNFORD VAUGHAN THOMAS (LEFT) AND CAPTAIN STONEY PICTURED ON THE FLIGHT DECK. (COURTESY BBC)

★ ★ ★ The ★ ★ ★ CHRISTMAS BROADCAST COMES OF AGE

ON Christmas Day one of the Commonwealth's youngest traditions comes of age. Twenty-one years ago King George V made his first Christmas broadcast.

Since then the custom has been broken only twice—in 1936, year of Edward's abdication, and again two years later, for reasons given by George VI in his first, 1937 broadcast.

"I cannot aspire," he said, then, "to take my father's place. Nor do I think that you would wish me to carry on, unvaried, a tradition so personal to him."

Both assumptions were prompted by characteristic modesty. And both were disproved by events.

IN 1939 the late King resumed his broadcasts "from home and heart" with an inspiring message at what he called "perhaps the most fateful hour in our history."

And last year the Queen inherited a firmly established tradition. Like her father and grandfather before her, she made her first Christmas broadcast from the quiet, cream-and-gold study at Sandringham, royal homestead in rural Norfolk.

This was its familiar setting. "I have a house in London," her father once remarked, "but Sandringham is my home." And for royalty, as for most of us, Christmas Day has meant whenever possible a family reunion at home.

It has not always been possible. During the war the late King spoke "from a house in the country," a security phrase that concealed the identity of Windsor Castle. And in 1948 he broadcast from Buckingham Palace, where he was spending Christmas for the first time as Sovereign. But always till now the royal message has come from England.

This year the Queen greets her peoples from New Zealand. And the 21-year-old tradition takes a new twist.

TECHNICALLY its pattern alters. Till now the hour-long exchange of round-world greetings that precedes the royal message has been marshalled in London. This year it is being assembled in Sydney.

Sharing the BBC's responsibility for radio's most ambitious programme are the broadcasting systems of Australia and New Zealand.

But the BBC will transmit the full programme as usual, beginning at the traditional hour of 3 p.m. GMT, when short-wave reception is at its best in most parts of the world.

Knitting the programme together becomes a bigger job than ever.

By
ALLAN MURRAY

When the Queen faces the microphone in Auckland's Government House at nine o'clock on Christmas night, Big Ben will be striking nine on Christmas morning. For BBC engineers this is a new zero hour. Their sharpest problem is to capture and record the Queen's voice for London's afternoon programme.

ONLY once before have listeners heard a recording of the royal message. Like almost every speaker in the programme, the Sovereign has always broadcast "live" except in 1951.

In that year the late King, tired and ill after his operation, found a live broadcast beyond his strength.

Urged to delegate the microphone to Princess Elizabeth, he replied: "My daughter may have her chance next year. I want to speak to my people myself."

He had his wish. In the few days before Christmas his message was recorded in a series of short passages, as much as he could manage at a time. Joined together, they made the recording which was broadcast to the listening world.

It was the ailing King's last broadcast, as he himself had surmised in his prophetic words. And it was the only time that he listened to his own voice as it came over the air.

At Sandringham he had always followed his father's habit. Leaving his family in the drawing room, where they had assembled after the midday Christmas dinner, he went alone to his study.

ON its wide, polished desk the family photographs had been replaced by twin microphones and a red cue-light. As the greetings programme moved second by second towards its climax the King pulled up his favourite chair, fingered his script, and waited for his cue.

For him the broadcast meant a nervous ordeal far more trying than "microphone fright." But his stammer was a handicap which he fought ruthlessly and triumphantly mastered.

His first Christmas broadcast in 1937 was a feat of determination. It lasted four minutes, and was the result of patient hours with a voice specialist.

In 1940 he spoke for 12 minutes, and dispensed for the first time with the specialist. Each day for a week he had rehearsed his message. On Christmas Eve he gave it six readings, timed by the Queen with a stop watch.

First to congratulate him on its delivery was Sir Winston Churchill.

Like her father, the Queen writes her own scripts, often making last-minute alterations.

But unlike his broadcasts her message last year was entirely unrehearsed.

She has become an accomplished broadcaster since, aged 14, she first faced the microphone in a BBC Children's Hour programme. But she takes great pains with her scripts, listens intently when the Duke plays back her voice to her on his own tape recording machine and offers suggestions.

Her grandfather, George V, had spoken by radio long before his first Christmas broadcast in 1932. First ever royal broadcast was in 1924. With the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, the King used the microphone to open the Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

As early as 1898 he had used Marconi's apparatus to speak to Queen Victoria.

His father, later King Edward, lay ill in the royal yacht, which was moored off the Isle of Wight. His grandmother, Queen Victoria, was living at nearby Osborne. And for 10 days the young Prince George sent her progress reports from ship to shore—by wireless.

SO 21 years ago, when George V spoke for the first time from Sandringham, at the same desk as his son and granddaughter, he was no radio novice. But never before had any broadcast found so wide an audience. Never had one man's words reached so many people so quickly. A fraction of a second before the King's resonant voice reached the walls of his study it had travelled round the world.

For the BBC, that was a big day. It marked the birth not only of the Christmas broadcast but of all its overseas services.

British broadcasting was ten years old. In May the BBC had begun an experimental TV service, and moved from its first, improvised studios to Broadcasting House. Christmas Day crowned a bumper year.

Lord Reith, then BBC Director-General, tells in his memoirs how he first put up the idea of a royal Christmas broadcast. The King's private secretary was dubious, the King himself enthusiastic. Says Lord Reith: "It was the most spectacular success we had achieved so far."

SINCE then the programme has gone from strength to strength. Matching the care taken by three generations of royal broadcasters, radio's exports spend three months building up an hour-long programme unique in its complexity.

Typical of its make-up was last year's broadcast.

From a Greek boy, maimed and blinded by a stray bomb in his country's guerrilla war, came the first greeting. He spoke from the home of a Welsh

docker, where he was beginning a new life.

Then over to Belgium and Switzerland, and on across the world to Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Malaya, Korea, Hongkong.

From Nigeria came the voice of Africa, from Sydney's Bondi Beach an Australian greeting from a lifesaver jolling in the hot summer night. A bucking North Sea trawler sent her cheery message. And from the ice-cold mid-Atlantic came good wishes from the giant Queen Mary.

CANADA'S message was spoken after breakfast on Christmas morning, New Zealand's before dawn on Boxing Day. All were timed to the second, linked in London with music and narration, sent out again round the world in a pattern of sound.

Last thread in the pattern was the voice of a Comet pilot introducing the Queen.

In such a programme the loss of only a few seconds would mean chaos. So in the London studios as many items as possible are pre-recorded. Shadowing each, with needle poised, stands an alert engineer.

But invariably the Christmas broadcast has been 90 percent "live". The experts have had anxious moments, but never a real hitch.

Responsible for their massive team work is 46-year-old Laurence Gilliam, Head of BBC Features. He has produced the programme since it began.

In the studio with him is engineer Charles Ludbrook, facing the control panel with the world at his fingertips.

ANOTHER expert with long experience is Mr. R. H. Wood, 50-year-old engineer who installs the royal microphone and sees that its message reaches the London studio.

For Mr Wood this has usually meant Christmas Day at Sandringham, checking his installations and discussing do's and don'ts with the royal speaker.

This year Mr Wood will not be at Sandringham. The Queen speaks from her heart, but not her home.

Yet the BBC has its responsibilities in this twenty-first year of the traditional broadcast. The pattern has been woven in a new way. But its shape is the same.

As Big Ben strikes two o'clock on the afternoon of Christmas Day, an underground studio below the placid white cliffs of London's Broadcasting House becomes once more the nerve centre of the world's greatest radio link-up.

The resonant strokes boom through the radio sets of perhaps two hundred million listeners. In the studio their echoes die in a faint silence. The producer nods. A red light glows. A knob turns.

"This is London," says the announcer. And another Christmas broadcast is in the air.

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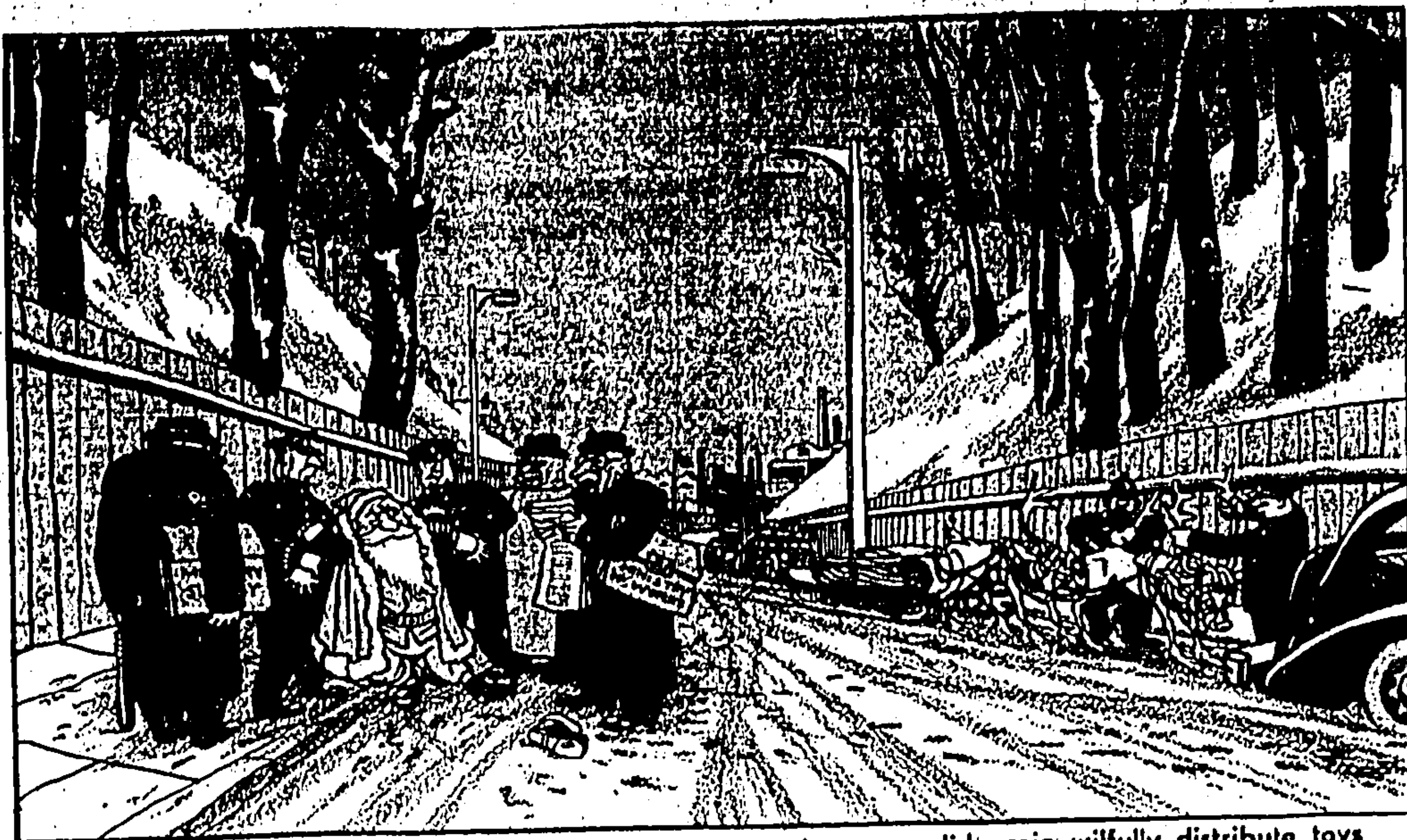
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London Express Service

CHRISTMAS AT THE OPERA

By GERARD BOURKE

LONDON. THIS Christmas, special performances of Humperdinck's fairy-tale operas, "Hansel and Gretel," are being staged in many opera houses to commemorate its first performance at Weimar 60 years ago. Also, next year marks the centenary of the composer's birth near Bonn.

"Hansel and Gretel" remains unchallenged as the perfect Christmas opera for the family to enjoy. Children are enchanted by the story; parents secretly examine the work for its well-known similarity to Wagner's elaborate music dramas. For Humperdinck, achieved a seemingly impossible task when he applied Wagnerian methods to a fairy story. Yet basically both composers had similar ideals: the formation of a national opera based on German myths.

Humperdinck's sister, Adelheid Wette, wife of a Cologne doctor, did not pretend to be a writer. But each Christmas she would adapt a fairy tale, often from Grimm's works, so that it could be acted at Christmas

parties given for her young daughters. Naturally she invited her brother, who was happiest in children's company to see the fun.

One Christmas evening as he watched his nieces dancing and singing folk tunes incorporated into his sister's version of "Hansel and Gretel," his mind wandered to Wagner's similar use of myths. And he saw how his sister's simple entertainment could be built into a work of wide appeal. It would be national in spirit, including several German nursery rhymes, and a worthy adaptation from Grimm.

WHEN Wagner had died a few years earlier, Humperdinck felt that his service at the Bayreuth Wagner Theatre was completed, although Wagner had entrusted him with the musical education of his son, Siegfried, the heir to Bayreuth. This task Humperdinck carefully fulfilled.

But his work of preparing the music for the rehearsals of Wagner's music dramas was now ended. Once such was Wagner's faith in him, several hours of music by Humperdinck had been used at a rehearsal of "Parsifal," so as to lengthen an interlude, and allow more time for scene changing.

Humperdinck had paid farewell to "The Master" when he had conducted a children's choir

in choruses from "Parsifal" on Wagner's last birthday, and was now free to try to make his own name in opera.

At that time, it was a custom at the Frankfurt Opera to give special Christmas matinees for children, and Humperdinck had these in mind when composing "Hansel and Gretel."

The overture to "Hansel and Gretel" is modelled on that for Wagner's "The Mastersingers," and sets the magic scene of fairyland, bringing in delightful themes from the opera, and motifs—in Wagnerian fashion—to identify the characters. These themes are used so skilfully that those who prefer to do so may just bask in a series of excellent tunes.

Similarly, throughout the opera, one may apply intellect to analyse the music, or join the children in their delight of good tunes to hum or whistle.

When first performed, "Hansel and Gretel" was received enthusiastically, especially as relief from the melodramatic operas then being rapidly written by Italians. It was even called the greatest opera since "Parsifal," a tribute that must have given satisfaction to so keen a Wagnerian.

However, Brahms, when asked his opinion of the new opera, replied carefully: "Quite nice, but you will see that he will never achieve another success."

His prediction was correct. Although Humperdinck tried to repeat the formula with "The King's Children" and "The Seven Little Goats," neither held the stage for long, though the former is still occasionally played.

"Hansel and Gretel" brought Humperdinck great riches, yet he did not change his simple mode of living. Formerly he had earned little as publisher's reader and critic. Perhaps his criticisms were too kindly to bring fame, for he was always anxious to help musicians.

His most famous pupil was the hypersensitive composer of songs, Hugo Wolf, whom he regarded almost as a son. In fact, Humperdinck was largely responsible for bringing forward his earliest pieces. Yet before his early tragic death, Wolf turned on Humperdinck with abuse, occasioned, it has been said, by the success of "Hansel and Gretel" when compared with that of his own single opera "Der Corregidor."

EACH Christmas, extracts from "Hansel and Gretel" are broadcast by nearly all radio stations. Thirty years ago, it was the first opera relayed by any European station when broadcast from Covent Garden. Nevertheless, although so many people will again enjoy this

SANTA CLAUS INTERVIEWED

By Julia Collar

WHEN I spoke with of children very well, and at Father Christmas—at Christmas time they often come to him secretly and tell him all about their children. So when the children themselves are presented a few minutes later, Father Christmas knows what their special interests are without being told.

He was a big man, this Santa, with his white beard and long red robe. And he knew a good deal about life on this earth besides reindeer-land. He had, in fact, spent several years as a Regimental Sergeant Major, and during the months when nobody seems very interested in Father Christmas he helps out this big shop by acting as Chief Store Guide.

Of course, the children don't realise then—when they see him in a commissionaire's uniform—that he is really Santa Claus in disguise, though some of the parents do. For during this year he gets to know many parents

"Do children really like you?" I asked.

He was affronted. "Of course," he said, "though often they're rather nervous. They've heard so much about me, that when they meet me they're rather frightened. But I soon reassure them, and then they start talking. And when children start talking to me, they never stop."

CONVINCED

"And do they always believe that you really are Father Christmas?"

"Oh yes," he said, "though sometimes they're rather suspicious—I can't think why. Two six-year-old twins came to see me last year; they thought I was just somebody dressed up. But afterwards their mother came back and told me they were now convinced I really was Santa Claus. This year, however, an older boy who'd visited me regularly every Christmas for years came up and said bluntly: 'I've just learnt how you've been kidding me all these years.' What he meant I really don't know."

I asked him what he thought Father Christmas's most important qualities were. He named three. First of all, he said, he's got to know all about children—and like them. He himself is the father of two boys, though they are both grown up now and members of the Police force.

RIGHT VOICE

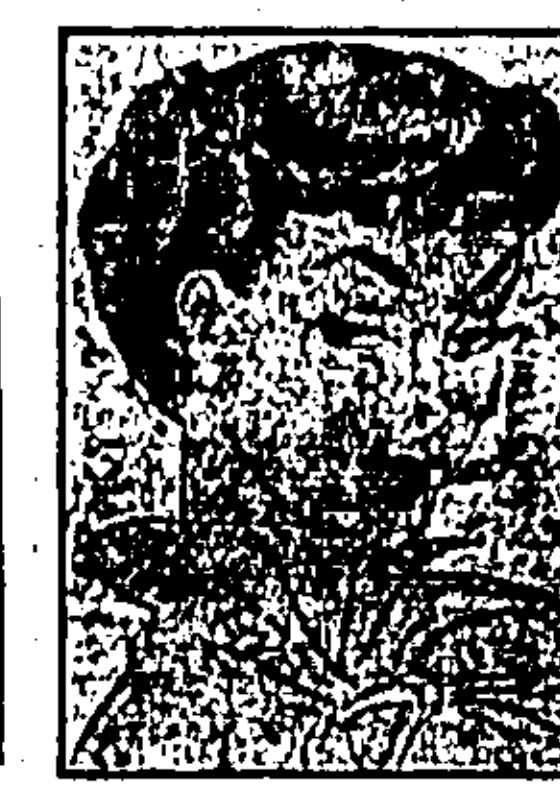
Secondly, he must have a cheerful, pleasant manner. "Some people," he said, "dress up as Father Christmas and give the game away by being too gruff and curt with children. Every kid knows Father Christmas is not really like that."

The third quality he mentioned was to have the right sort of voice. Too deep a voice frightens children; it must have just the right friendly tone.

He finished his lunch, and I realised it was time to go. He had customers waiting in Toyland. As I left the store, I saw him saying hello and happy Christmas to about the hundredth child that day.

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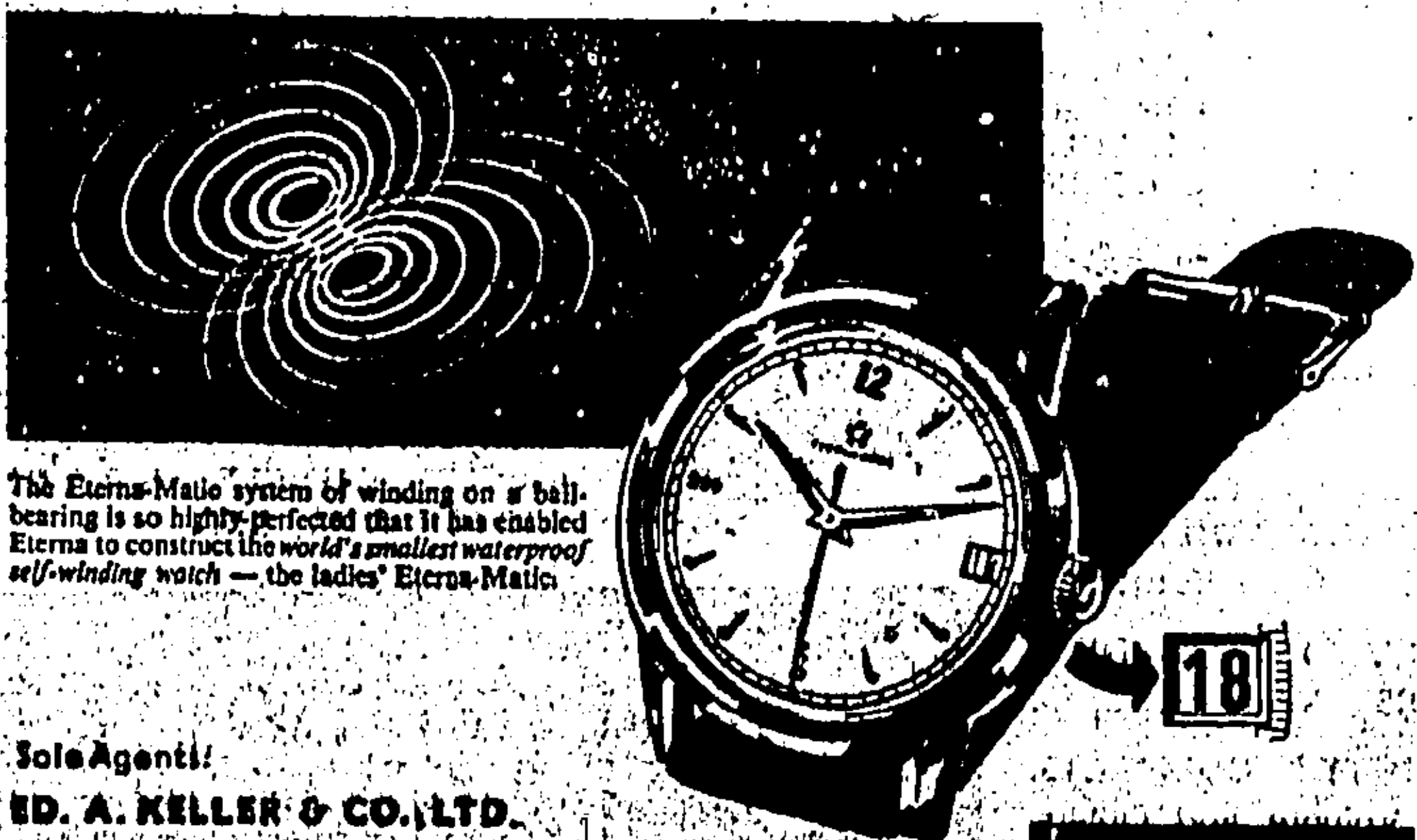
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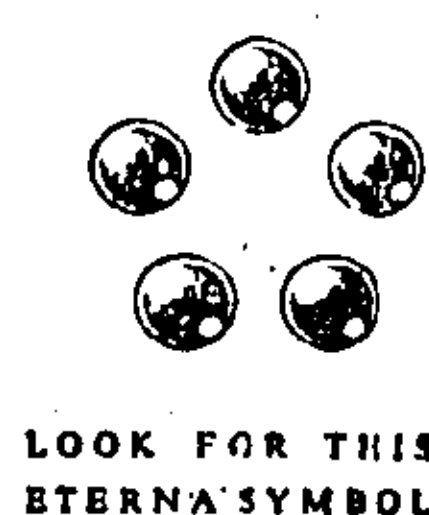
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LOOK FOR THIS
ETERNA SYMBOL

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

By Laurence P. Davis

THE Red rulers of Eastern Europe have pitted their wits against the spirit of Christmas—and they are losing the battle. To their dismay they have discovered that the Christmas spirit, imbued by centuries of devotion, is stronger than the teachings of Lenin and Stalin.

But once again, the Red bosses of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, of Rumania and Poland, and Bulgaria and Albania have issued decrees by the hundred. All are meant to balk the peoples' Christmas customs and substitute instead the Communist line of war against the Church—and the "plutocratic" celebration of Christ's birth.

Listen to what happened on Christmas Eve last year. . . . Then Czech Premier Antonin Zapotocky broadcast to the workers of Czechoslovakia: "The story of the birth of Christ is only an exploiters' myth. . . . Times have changed. Little Jesus has grown up and is now Grandfather Frost. He is no longer naked or in tatters, but well dressed in a fur coat and hat. The little Jesus in the stable was the symbol of Christmas in former days. Why? He had to remind the working people that the proper place for the poor is in the stable. If he was born and reared there, why shouldn't you have been? And why shouldn't your children be born in a stable? Thus the rich and mighty talked to the poor. . . ."

At the time of Zapotocky's speech the Christmas bells were ringing over the frontier in Austria. And hundreds of Czech workers with their wives and children stood with bowed heads listening to their tones—a call to Christians forbidden in their own country.

What does Zapotocky offer his people to make up for the loss of that gay festival? Last year, two extra ounces of chocolates and one piece of soap for children; three ounces of rice "for all consumers." Just enough to make a mockery of the Christmas spirit. "If you want extra sweets," the radio told the people, "buy mamma's cake. There is plenty in the shops."

Instead of Father Christmas, Grandfather Frost—who starts his journey in Russia—now comes to Czechoslovakia. But his reindeer sledge is empty save for books on Communist ideology and the works of Stalin, Lenin and Marx. And the Feast of Grandfather Frost is to remind the people that another year is coming to a close; that new Five-Year-Plan tasks lie ahead.

No longer, claimed Radio Prague proudly, are the children writing to "Santa Claus" in "Heaven." Their letters are addressed to "Grandfather Frost in Moscow" and contain requests of a political nature. And the giving of presents? Why, said the Communist spokesmen, such habits are a "nonsensical, decadent survival of capitalism."

THE Hungarian Government has substituted the "Feast of the Fir-tree" for the old-fashioned Christmas. And to show what good businessmen they are, they have nationalised the sale of Christmas trees throughout the country!

But they made a bad mistake last year, when, "at the earnest and repeated request

of the workers," they turned Boxing Day into a working day, at the same time expressing their conviction that the workers, to show their appreciation, would exceed their quotas by 30 percent. Attendance at the factories was poor and passive resistance at its height.

Previously, all restaurants and places of amusement were closed in Hungary on Christmas Day, the traditional Family Festival. Even the poorest were given a chance of a day off to be reunited with their families. But last year the Communists changed all this. On their orders, theatres and cinemas were thrown open and cafes and restaurants advertised "Fir-tree Festivals." And the bright lights of town were turned on to produce a festive air.

But the streets remained deserted; except for uniformed guests detailed to go there by their superiors, the theatres and cinemas remained empty. Then, just as midnight approached, the streets began to fill. From their homes people poured out to the churches to attend midnight Mass. Some churches were packed to overflowing so that worshippers had to follow the services from the streets outside. It was the biggest demonstration against the Red regime ever witnessed in Hungary, and a blow in the face to Communist doctrine.

The Hungarian Government have not veiled their efforts to suppress the birthday of the

Redeemer. No mention has been made in the Communist-controlled press since 1949 of the religious meaning of Christmas. And, in the calendar, no mention is made of Christmas Day under this name. In the schools, Christmas is termed merely the "Day of the Fir-tree."

Nevertheless, the Government have not succeeded in any way to sway the religious feeling of the people. The Reds may have damped the Christmas spirit—but beneath the surface it glows as steadfastly as ever.

IN Rumania, the "Festival of the Winter tree" has, at least officially, taken the place of Christmas. Its moving spirit is the all-powerful Trade Union Federation—run by fanatical Reds—who have organised it to the last detail and turned it into an ideological and instructive demonstration of Communist power.

No longer are the children allowed Christmas holidays. Their schools are closed. It is true, but instead the Executive Committees of the Trade Union Federation and their Regional Councils compel them to attend lectures on Communist ideology and the decadence of the Western way of life, including the celebration of Christmas, and their leisure hours are spent memorising passages from the works of Lenin and Stalin.

The policy of the Rumanian Government is to allow the people no time to ponder what they have lost. Yet, even here, the spirit of Christmas lingers on, hidden from the outside world by drawn curtains and locked doors.

In Poland, New Year is being built up to rival Christmas. "Mass New Year's Events" are organised for children, and adults—again with the object of bolstering morale to face the tasks of the Five-Year Plan.

WHEN you sit beside your fireside this Christmas among your friends and family, spare a thought and perhaps a prayer for the people behind the Iron Curtain, whom brute force prevents from spending Christmas the way they wish.

And rest assured that millions there are thinking of you, too, and praying for the day their ancient, holy ceremonies can again be honoured.

POCKET CARTOON
by OSBERT LANCASTER



"Quite frankly, to me you're just an anti-social manifestation of the profit motive deliriously exploiting the Freudian father-image!"

Your own 'ghost'

If the fireside talk turns to ghosts here is a way to conjure one up without frightening the children.

Go in a room which can be completely darkened and where an electric lamp can be placed on a table. Sit by the lamp so that you can easily turn it on in the dark.

Seat your family about 6ft. away from the lamp. Then turn out the light so that everyone is in complete darkness for about ten minutes.

Warn the family that when you turn the light on they should be looking towards you but not directly at the electric bulb. Tell them they must keep their eyes as still as possible when the light is on, and later when you turn it off.

Switch on the lamp for one second, and turn it off.

In a few moments a "ghost" image of you, complete in all details of features and dress, will materialise out of the darkness and gradually fade. The

room, too, will be visible in astonishing detail.

The experiment can be repeated any number of times if the eyes are given a few minutes rest to get used to the darkness.

The explanation? The "ghost" is an after-image which remains on the retina and which your brain seems to project forwards.

It is exceptionally vivid because the retina of the eye has been adapted by its sojourn in the dark to respond to light to the maximum extent.

The phenomenon—called Swindle's Ghost after Professor P. F. Swindle (his real name) who first described it—has been put forward as a possible explanation of graveyard spooks.

If a man is walking by a cemetery on a cloudy night and the moon breaks through as he passes a white tombstone he may see a vague, white, phantom ahead of him a few moments later.

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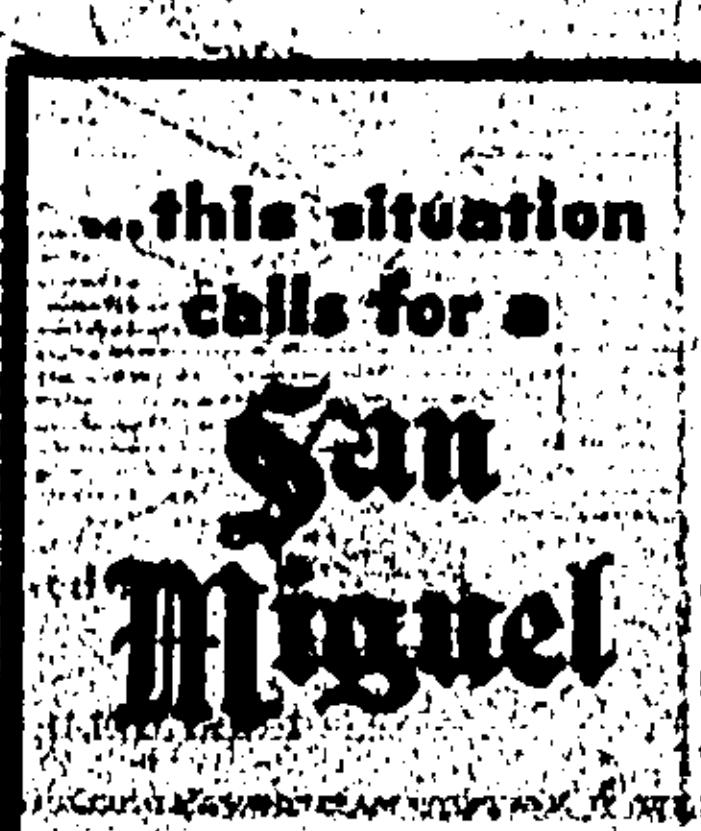
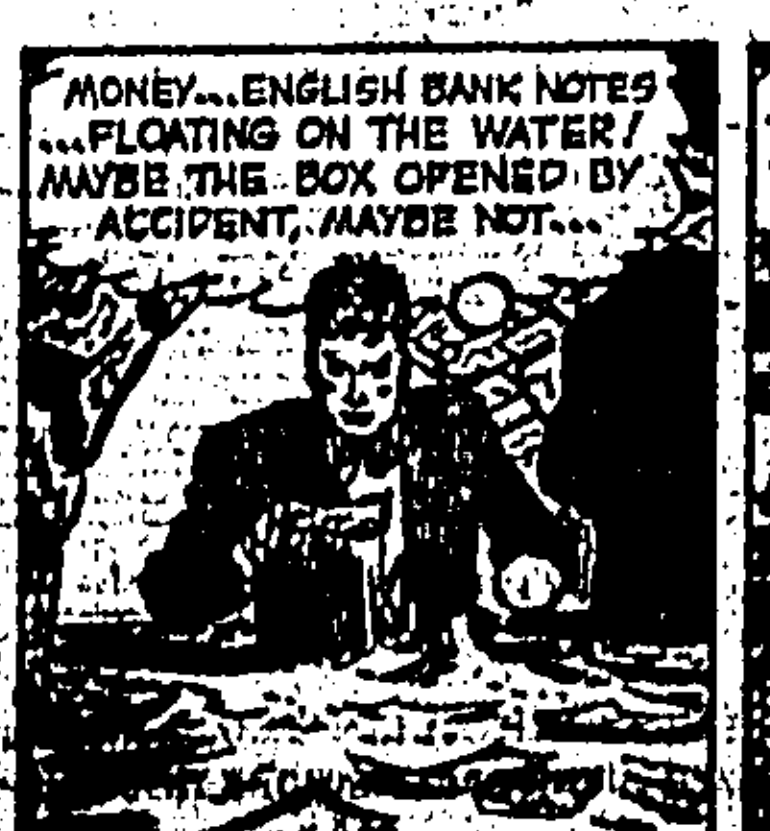
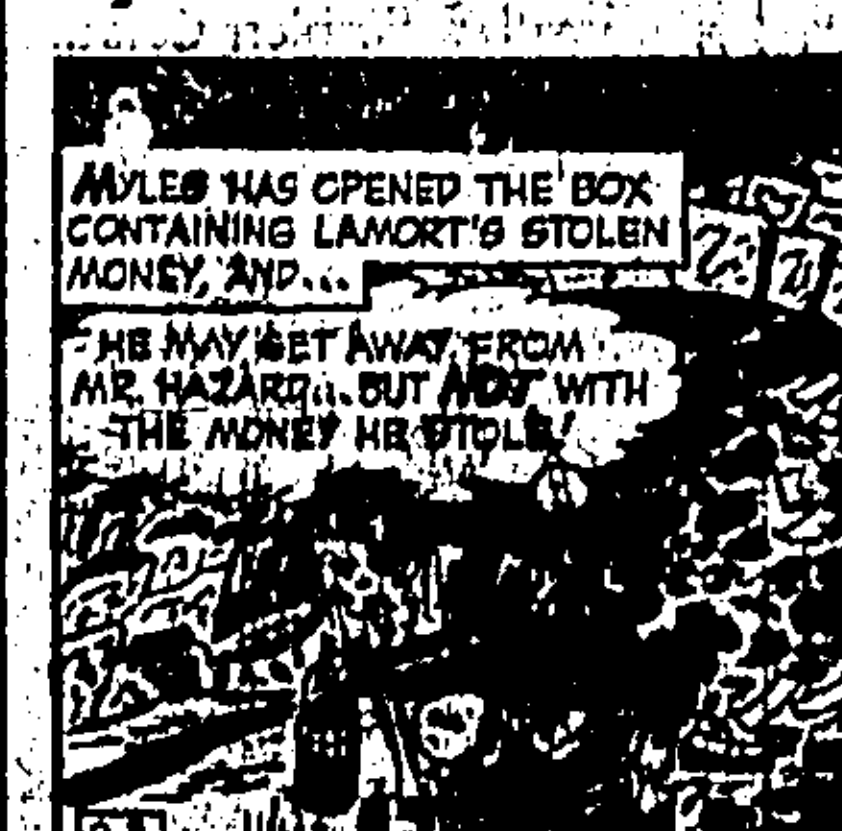


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Chapman Pincher

JOHNNY HAZARD



By Frank Robbins

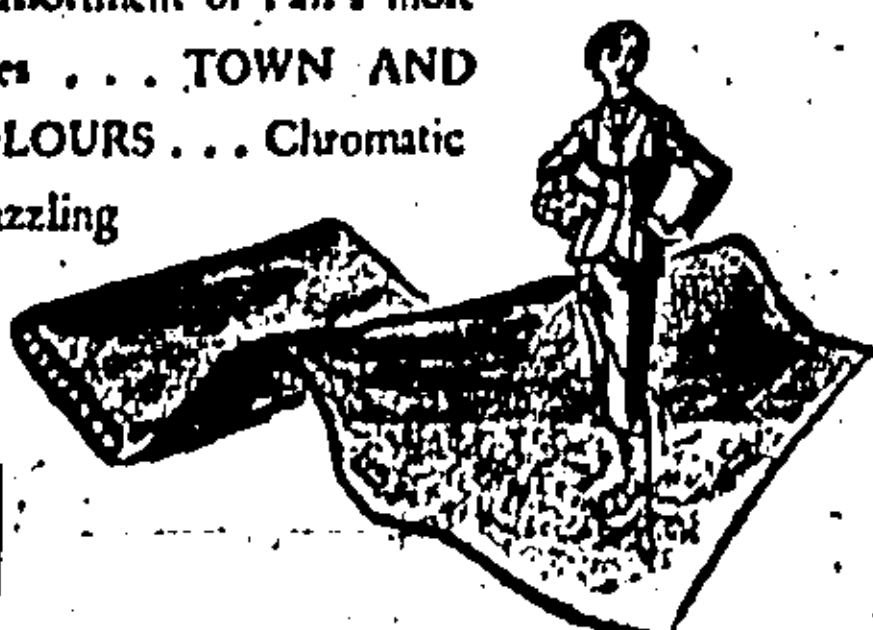
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Something New For Your Hair

London. THERE'S a new kind of blonde around this Christmas. She's not the bright and brassy girl she used to be. This blonde is a shade more subtle.

For the new kind of fair hair is the kind that could be natural—even if it isn't.

It's the look that comes from being a couple of shades lighter than you really are; from gold streaks that look like sun bleached, from curls lightened at the tips, from an all-over sparkle.

It still comes out of a bottle, but it's natural enough to fool most men. It's the one-shade-lighter look. And it started in America.

Recently it came to this country in a big way. The biggest manufacturers of bleach over here staged a demonstration of the new idea. Six different girls with six different shades of hair—fair, light brown, dark auburn, brown, golden blonde, and, mouse—were given the one-shade-lighter look. And it's on the mass-produced level already. So this looks like the end of the blonde that gentlemen used to prefer.

Epitaph from Yolande Donlan, who made her name on the stage as a "dumb blonde," and recently went "natural": "Men don't look twice at a girl with brown hair, the way they do at a blonde. I don't get wolf-whistles any more."

(London Express Service)

PARTY FASHION

By Dorothy Barkley

PARTY clothes have taken on an informal air. Top-flight designers in London and Florence, after reflecting on the informal way of entertaining which has developed since the war, now produce exotic designs for casual "fork parties" as well as for full dress balls.

Both fashion cities stress the same points—slim-fitting jeans, narrow as drainpipes, and colourful jackets, gaily embroidered. And these are

embroidered in pearls and mother-of-pearl. (Illustrated).

One London suggestion combines jeans in printed corduroy—black, striped with cranberry—with a white blanket cloth jacket lined to match the jeans. (Illustrated).

London designer Digby Morton takes the idea one stage further and creates the hostess ensemble illustrated. For the top and slacks he chooses silk embroidered with velvet; over the slacks goes a full silk skirt. (Illustrated).

Dresses for white-tie occasions divide into two categories this year.

Either you choose a slim straight sheath dress which has a skirt fullness swept to the back where it falls in folds to form a train. Or you wear a dress with a full, bell-shaped skirt following the new Dior line.



Printed corduroy—black, striped with cranberry—is used for these jeans. With them go a white blanket cloth jacket, lined to match them and a black sweater.

material in an unusual way. Pierre Balmain suggests for a full-skirted dress, twelve-inch wide bands of tulle criss-crossed in a basket-work pattern. Sybil Connolly, the Irish designer now making Dublin a name in the fashion world, veils rose pink satin with Guatemalan lace for a young girl's "dream" dress, strapless, full-skirted and belted with a matching satin sash.

Accessories for this year's evening parties—shoulder-high satin gloves; a single black rose; hug-me-tight boleros with cowl collars.



This ensemble for the hostess at home, made by Digby Morton, consists of top and matching slacks in silk embroidered with velvet and a billowing silk overskirt.

(London Express Service)



This sleek two-piece set, by a Florentine designer, combines embroidered blue wool with metal-threaded silk for the jeans.

adaptable to all climates. They are made in silk, poplin, velvet, corduroy, ribbed jersey or tartan wool.

Many outfits are sold as three-pieces—jeans with top and jacket. Tops are in poplin, coarse-ribbed knitting like a fisherman's jersey or paisley patterned wool or silk. Some jackets in wool are embroidered with beads and coloured silks; others are plain outside, lined to contrast.

Florentine designers use metal-threaded silk which has a rich appearance. An outfit typical of the stylish casual clothes now coming from Italy consists of white metal-threaded silk jeans and a blue jacket.

Black tulle is given the cobweb look by being woven with silver threads. And to throw up the intricate pattern on a dark coloured lace, black or midnight blue for example, the material is placed over a white underskirt.

If you like dramatic colours, there's a new rich shade of red called "Christmas Red." Victor Stiebel used Christmas Red satin, brocaded with a black rose pattern, for a bell-skirted dress and draped the décolletage with black satin.

Top designers provide inspiration for those who like to use

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For HIM:—

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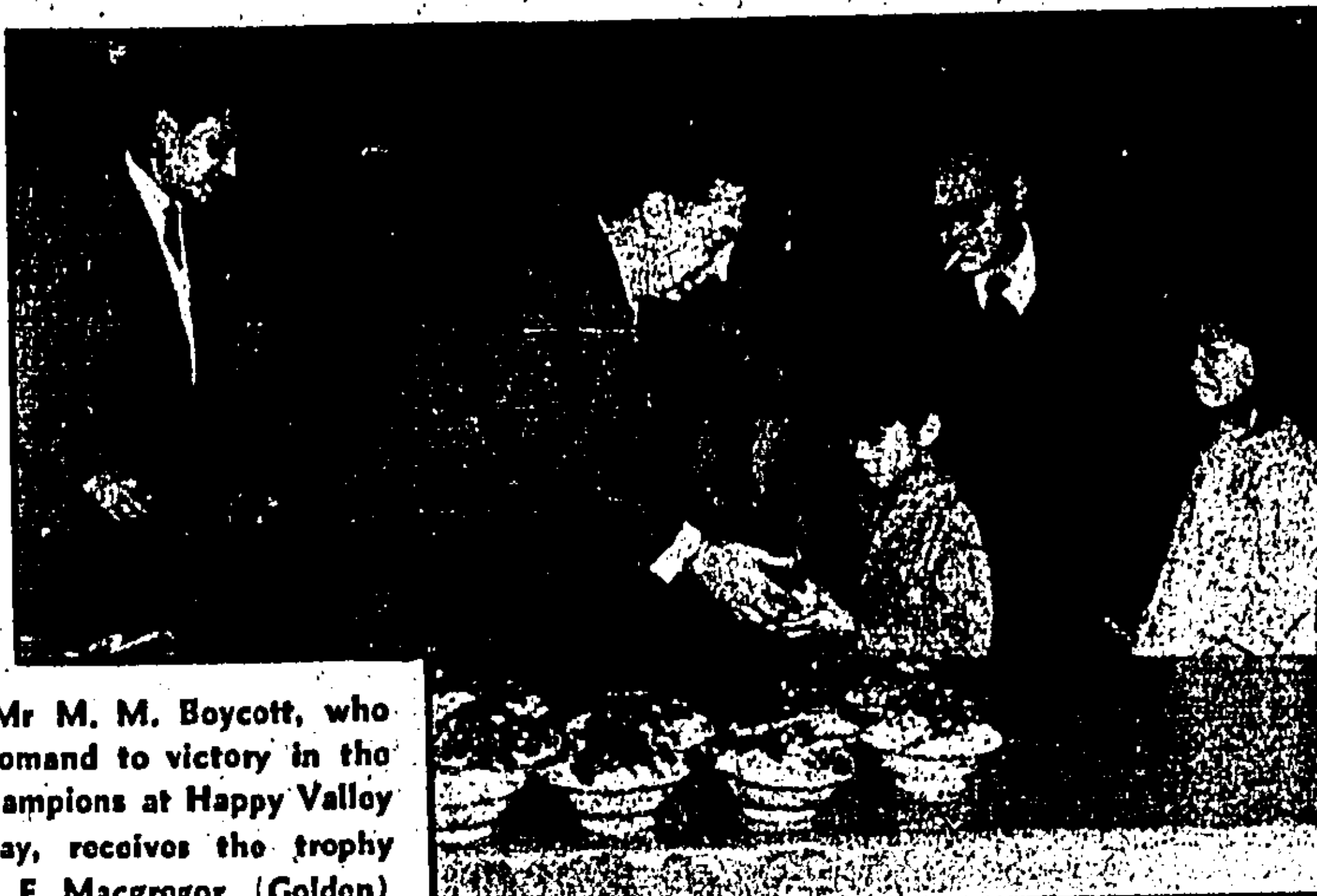
TWO parties snapped at the Purim Ball held at the Jewish Club last Saturday. In upper picture are Mr and Mrs A. Raymond, Mr and Mrs H. Odell, Mr Horace Kadoorie and Miss Silas. Lower picture shows Mr and Mrs R. V. Lodorhofer, Mr and Mrs M. N. Rakusen and Mr and Mrs H. Hefti. (Staff Photographer)



THE Colonial Secretary, the Hon. R. B. Black, cutting the birthday cake at last week's tiffin meeting of the Hongkong Junior Chamber of Commerce to mark the ninth anniversary of the founding of the Junior Chamber International. Below: Jaycees handing out food at the party for children at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre in Kowloon. About 1,000 children enjoyed a variety concert and also took away gifts. (Staff Photographer)



BRIDAL group taken at the English Methodist Church last Saturday after the wedding of Mr Raymond Randolph Cooper and Miss Margaret Iris Roberts. (Staff Photographer)



BELOW: Mr M. M. Boycott, who rode Ben Lomand to victory in the Autumn Champions at Happy Valley last Saturday, receives the trophy from Mrs J. F. Macgregor. (Golden)



WEDDING of Mr Joseph Sydney Brooker and Miss Barbara Susan Howell at St. Andrew's Church last Saturday. (Staff Photographer)



COLONEL J. A. Dawson presenting prizes at the speech day of the Gun Club Hill School last week. Col. Dawson also made an address. (Mainland)



MR R. Johannessen's Norse Girl, ridden by Mr J. Pote-Hunt, won the Sports Club Jubilee Cup at Happy Valley last Saturday. Picture shows Mr W. G. Frost, Acting Chairman of the Sports Club, who presented the Cup, Mrs Johannessen with the Cup, and Mr Johannessen. (Golden)



PICTURE taken at a farewell party for Mr Peter Potok before he left for Australia earlier this month. Mr Potok is seen in the front row.



LEFT: A small girl of the Quarry Bay School, all dressed to take part in a Christmas play, receiving a prize from Mrs W. Stoker at the school's annual speech day last week. (Staff Photographer)

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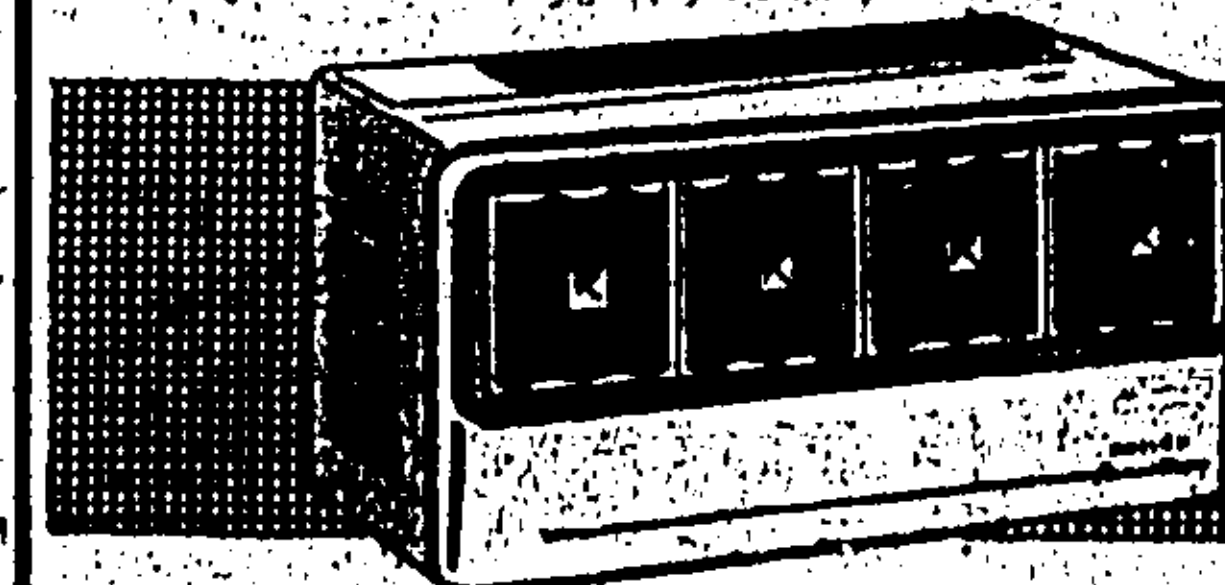
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HIS Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, accompanied by officials of the Hongkong Chinese Manufacturers' Union, inspects displays at the eleventh annual exhibition of Hongkong products which opened on Monday. (Staff Photographer)



BELOW: Teams representing Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd. who met in a friendly inter-hong cricket match last Sunday. Wayfoong won by eight wickets. (Staff Photographer)

DR the Hon. J. M. Liston, Acting Director of Medical and Health Services, speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of the Tung Wah Hospital Infirmary in Kowloon on Tuesday. (Staff Photographer)



TWO charming young performers who took part in the International Dance at the concert given by Kowloon Junior School students on Thursday. Clad in Spanish costume is Kathleen Butler, and the little "Dutch" girl is Pamela Dickson. (Staff Photographer)



LEFT: At the cocktail party given to mark the opening of the new premises of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd. The Manager, Mr A. G. Donn (extreme left), is seen with a couple of guests. (Staff Photographer)



A successful carnival dance was held at the Kowloon Tong Garden City Association last Saturday in aid of the 12th Kowloon (Christ Church) Boy Scouts funds. Above are some of those who took part in the fun. (Staff Photographer)



HIS Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, accompanied by the Commissioner of Police, Mr A. C. Maxwell, inspects the Hongkong Police Force at their annual review on Wednesday. At right are those who were decorated. From left: Assistant Commissioner (Reserve) T. O. Tso (OBE), Det. Corporal Lung Yiu-tong (George Medal), Assistant Commissioner P. I. M. Irwin (King's Police Medal), Asst Supt E. S. Brooks, Asst Supt O. F. Bower, Asst Commissioner H. W. E. Heath and Acting Senior Supt A. A. Shaw (Colonial Police Medals). (Staff Photographer)

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MEMBERS of the Sports Club honouring a toast at the Club's silver jubilee cocktail party, which was attended by His Excellency the Governor. (Staff Photographer)

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New Recipes To Garnish The Old

By CYNTHIA ROBB

CHRISTMAS cookery is an institution. Tradition and universal love of festive fare have conspired to make it so.

But most of us who prepare the traditional Christmas dishes like to have some new recipe to garnish the old.

And this year, with the Royal Tour spotlighting New Zealand and Australia around Christmas-time, people will want to have some party ideas from "down under".

Here are some suggestions culled from Australian and New Zealand friends accustomed to spending Christmas in mid-summer weather.

To start the festivities, here is a recipe for CURRIED TURKEY.

3 cups diced cooked turkey
1/2 cup minced onion
1 large cooking apple
2 good tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons fat
1-1/4 teaspoons curry powder
1 1/2 cups milk mixed with turkey, gravy or stock if available
Salt and pepper

Peel and dice the apple. Melt the fat and cook the apple, onion and turkey in it for about fifteen minutes until the apple and onion are tender. Remove from the stove and blend in the flour, salt and curry powder. Add liquid and stir constantly until thickened. Allow to cook a further fifteen minutes over gentle heat. Test for correct seasoning. Serve with hot buttered toast and thin slices of lemon.

Another favourite savoury recipe is RISOTTO.



2 oz. fat
3 oz. chopped onion
6 oz. rice
1 pint stock
2 oz. chopped cooked mushroom, liver or tomatoes
2 oz. grated cheese

Use a thick frying pan and fry the onion in the fat until it begins to brown. Add the rice and cook for three minutes longer. Add a quarter of the stock and cook for 10-20 minutes or until the rice is tender, adding the rest of the stock gradually. All the stock should be absorbed by this time. Add the cooked mushrooms, liver or tomatoes a few minutes before serving. They should be fried in a little fat. Serve the grated cheese separately, to be sprinkled on at table.

For the sweet-tooth in the family, try this recipe for MARSHMALLOW ICE CREAM.

12 marshmallows
1 cup hot milk
1 cup cold milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 tablespoons powdered milk
a few drops of cochineal

Cut up the marshmallows and stir them into the cupful of hot milk until they dissolve. Add the vanilla and allow to stand until the milk begins to cool and thicken. Stir the cold milk and powdered milk together, then beat both mixtures vigorously together. Colour a delicate shade of pink, cool in the ice tray for one hour, then remove and beat again. Freeze until firm and serve with chocolate sauce or crushed raspberries.

Or this one for BASKET FRUIT CUP.

Cut orange rinds into basket shapes and fill with diced pear, banana, sections of grapefruit, peeled white grapes, a dash of port and candied sugar. Top with a crystallized cherry.

A traditional Christmas cake is CHOCOLATE RIPPLE CAKE.

For this you will need:—
1/2 lb. chocolate ripple biscuits
1/2 pint cream
vanilla essence
1 teaspoon gelatine
1 1/2 desiccated castor sugar
chopped walnuts
crystallized cherries

Add sugar, gelatine and a drop of vanilla essence to the cream and whip it till very stiff. Put the biscuits together in a long line, with a generous spread of cream between each one. Place them on a dish, and cover thickly and entirely with cream. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts and decorate with slices of crystallized cherry.

An unusual CAKE FILLING is made from honey and chopped walnuts. Spread a layer cake with thick honey and sprinkle it liberally with chopped walnuts. Cover with another layer, and ice, if desired.

If you are looking for a good drink for those who don't like cocktail, try "PRUDENCE CUP".

1 large tin pineapple cubes
12 oranges
1/2 cup maraschino cherries
2 quarts water
3 cups sugar

Dissolve sugar with one quart water for eight minutes. When cold, add to it the juice from the pineapple, juice of eight oranges and one quart cold water. Set on ice. Slice the remaining four oranges as thinly as possible. Place in a bowl. Add two cups pineapple cubes and the cherries. Pour the liquid over and serve.

Or LIME-FROST.

For every two helpings pour one white of egg, one pint of strained chilled pineapple juice and two tablespoons of lime juice cordial into a large screw-top jar or cocktail shaker. Stir well, then adjust the lid and shake vigorously until the ingredients are frothy.

For new ways of serving coffee try ICED BRAZILIAN COFFEE.

1 cup liquid chocolate
1 1/2 pints chilled milk
3 cups strong black coffee

Mix the ingredients and add sugar if desired. Serve in tall glasses with a topping of chocolate ice cream or stiffly-whipped white of egg flavoured with vanilla.

Or TURKISH COFFEE.

1 oz. finely ground coffee and the same amount of sugar for each cup of water. Boil it in a covered saucepan and allow to cool. Boil it up again, cool it and boil it yet again. Before serving, throw a dessertspoonful of cold water into the saucepan to settle the grounds. Use small cups for Turkish coffee and no milk.

—(London Express Service)

Christmas At Home



LET'S PUT UP THE DECORATIONS

By Shirley Lowe

WHY not make this a bright Christmas? Nothing cheers up a dark room quite so much as brilliantly coloured decorations.

The best material for making decorations is crepe paper. It comes in a variety of colours.

You can make these five decorations in just a few hours. All you need is a large, sharp pair of scissors, some crepe paper, and a helper.

1 YOU will need a half fold — a packet — for THE FRINGE. Open out to its entire length and fold in half long-ways. Starting from cut ends refold

in the same grooves as before, leaving a margin. Make a series of cuts right across the fold to just past the margin.

Twist each cut piece separately between finger and thumb, shake out, and separate the strands. Loop the decoration over a picture, fireplace, or corner with a cluster of balloons.

2 THE BEANSTALK is an unusual and fascinating idea. You will need half a fold, opened out, and then rolled around an ordinary broomstick to form a tube.

Full out the stick, flatten the tube, and make two parallel cuts down the centre to halfway. Point the tips of the cut ends, then firmly take hold of the two inside thicknesses of crepe at the

back—shiny side to shiny side—hammer one end to the wall and twist loosely.

5 FILLED with balloons, THE NET is an excellent idea for a party.

Taking a fold or half-fold, pull back one thickness of crepe. Make a series of cuts 1 in. wide to within 1 in. before the single fold. Now open another fold, and cut between the 1 in. cuts to within an inch of the second opened fold.

Shake out the net, fill it with balloons, and suspend it from the ceiling with a length of string or thread.

AND THIS IS HOW THEY'LL LOOK

To release balloons just pull the thread ...

About the Drinks

By Bruce Blunt

HERE are a few suggestions for your Christmas drinks. For the white wine cup: mix two liquor glasses of maraschino, one bottle of white wine, dessertspoonful of sugar, one liqueur glass of Curacao. Add soda water. Decorate with pineapple and orange slices, add lumps of ice.

As rum is easily the most abundant spirit this Christmas, we will pass on to a Rum Sour. Juice of half a lemon, dessertspoonful of sugar, one measure of rum. Shake well and pour into medium-sized glasses. Add a squirt of soda water.

FOR the claret cup: mix one liquor glass of maraschino, one bottle of claret, two liquor glasses of Curacao, two tablespoons of sugar. Add soda water as desired.

Decorate with slices of orange and pineapple, add lumps of ice.

FOR the hot punch: mix a quart of old ale, one pint boiling water, quarter-

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CRIME ON CHRISTMAS EVE

By Edmund Crispin

BOXING Day, snow and ice; road surfaces like glass under a cold fog. In the North Oxford home of the University Professor of English Language and Literature, at three minutes past six in the evening, the front door bell rang.

It was the Professor himself—a tall, lean, affable person in his early forties—who answered the bell. On the doorstep he found a neatly-dressed greying man with a red tip to his nose and woebegone eyes.

"I can't get back," said this apparition. "I really can't get back to London tonight. The roads are impassable and such trains as there are are running hours late. Could you possibly let me have a bed?"

"My dear Humbleby," said the Professor, whose name was Garvase Fen, "you must come in. And certainly you can have a bed. What are you doing in this part of the world anyway?"

"Ghost-hunting," Detective-Inspector Humbleby of New Scotland Yard divested himself of his coat and hat. "Seasonable but not convenient." He followed Fen into the drawing room, where a huge fire was burning.

Fen was already pouring whisky. "Sit down and be comfortable," he said. "As a matter of interest, do you believe in ghosts?"

"The evidence for porters," Humbleby answered warily as he stretched out his hands to the blaze, "seems very convincing to me. Other sorts of ghosts I'm not so sure about—though after what happened at Rydalls two days ago—"

"Rydalls?" said Humbleby. "The residence," he elucidated laboriously, "of Sir Charles Moberley, the architect. It's about fifteen miles from here, Abingdon way."

"Yes, I remember it now. Restoration. I dare say. Old, in any case. And there are big grounds, with an eighteenth century pavilion about a quarter of a mile away from the house, in a park. That's where it happened—the murder, I mean."

Fen stared. "Sir Charles Moberley has been murdered?"

"No, no, no. Not him. Another architect, another knight—Sir Lucas Welsh. There's been quite a large house-party going on there, with Sir Lucas and his daughter Jane among the guests, and it was on Christmas Eve, you see, that Sir Lucas decided he wanted to investigate the local ghost."

"This is all clear enough to you, no doubt, but..."

"Do listen. The ghost is supposed to haunt this pavilion I've mentioned, where a murder was committed about a hundred and fifty years ago. Well, it seems that Sir Lucas is—was—credulous about such things, and on Christmas Eve he arranged to keep vigil alone there."

"And was murdered, and you don't know who did it?"

"Oh, yes, I do. Sir Lucas didn't die at once, you see; he had time to write up his murderer's name in the crime of the window-pane, and the gentleman concerned, a young German named Otto Morike, is now safely under arrest. But what I can't decide is how he got into and out of the pavilion."

"A locked-room mystery."

Carrying glasses, Fen joined him by the hearth. "Begin," he suggested, "at the beginning."

"Very well." Settling back in his chair, Humbleby sipped his whisky gratefully. "There, then, is this Christmas house-party, at Rydalls. Host, Sir Charles Moberley, the eminent architect."

"Among the guests, Sir Lucas Welsh, the equally eminent architect; his daughter Jane; Otto Morike, a young German of uncertain antecedents, a CID man, not Metropolitan, Sussex County—called James Wilburn. His importance is that the evidence he provides is quite certainly reliable—there has to be a point d'appui in these affairs, and he's it, so you mustn't exhaust yourself doubting his word about anything."

"I won't," Fen promised. "I'll believe him."

"Wilburn strolls back to the house alone, leaving Sir Charles and Sir Lucas talking shop. And presently Sir Charles, having seen Sir Lucas go into the pavilion, retraces his steps likewise, arriving at the house just in time to hear the alarm bell ringing."

"Alarm bell?"

"People had watched for the ghost before, and there was a bell installed in the pavilion for them to ring."

"This bell sounded, then, at just about the moment when the ghost was scheduled to appear, and a whole party of people, including Sir Charles, Jane Welsh, and Wilburn, hastened to the rescue."

"Now, the pavilion is quite small. There's just one circular room to it, having two windows (both very firmly nailed up); and you get into this room by way of a longish, narrow hall projecting from the perimeter of the circle, the one and only door being at the outer end of this hall."

"On arrival, the rescue party found the door shut but not locked; and when they opened it, and shone their torches inside, they saw a single set of footprints in the dust on the hall floor, leading to the entrance to the circular room."

"Acting on instinct or training or both, Wilburn kept his crowd clear of these footprints; and so it was that they came—joined now by Otto Morike who, according to his subsequent statement, had been taking a solitary stroll in the grounds—to the scene of the crime."

"Sir Lucas was lying on the floor beneath one of the windows, quite close to the bell-push; and an old stiletto, later discovered to have been stolen from the house, had been stuck into him under the left shoulder-blade (no damning fingerprints on it, by the way) or on anything else in the vicinity."

"Sir Lucas was still alive, and just conscious."

"Wilburn bent over him to ask who was responsible. And a queer smile crossed Sir Lucas's face, and he was just able to whisper—here Humbleby produced and consulted a notebook—'No whisper. Wrote it—on the window. Very first thing I did. It—before he died.'"

"They all heard him, and they all looked at him, and they all looked at the window-pane, as that snow and foul weather had started then, remember—and the letters, traced on the grimy window-pane stood out clearly."

"Well, it seems that then Otto started edging away, and Sir Charles, who's a hefty man, made a grab at him, and they

The author of this Christmas Eve detective story, a 32-year-old bachelor, is outstanding among postwar British detective authors. He became a best-selling detective writer with the publication in 1944 of his "Case of the Gilded Fly." Pianist, organist, conductor, composer, his hobbies, he says, are "cats, Shakespeare, Wagner and Strauss operas, swimming, idleness and excessive smoking."

fought, and presently a wallop from Sir Charles sent Otto clean through the tell-tale window and Sir Charles scrambled after him, and they went on fighting outside, trampling the glass to smithereens, until Wilburn and company joined in and put a stop to it."

"Incidentally, Wilburn says that Otto's going through the window looked contrived to him—a deliberate attempt to destroy evidence; though of course, so many people saw the name written there, it remains perfectly good evidence in spite of having been destroyed."

"Motive?" Fen asked.

"Good enough. Jane was wanting to marry Otto, and her father didn't approve—partly on the grounds that Otto was a German, and partly because he thought the boy wanted Jane's prospective inheritance rather than Jane herself."

"Jane being three years under the age of consent, the killing of Sir Lucas had, from Otto's point of view, a double advantage. It made Jane rich and removed the obstacle to the marriage."

"But here's the point," Humbleby leaned forward earnestly. "Here is the point: windows nailed shut; no second doors—emphatically none; chimney too narrow to admit a baby; and in the dust on the hall floor only one set of footprints, made unquestionably by Sir Lucas himself."

"If you're thinking that Otto might have waited in and but on top of those prints, as that page-boy did with King Wenecias, then you're wrong. Otto's feet are much too large, for one thing, and the prints hadn't been disturbed, for another."

"But then, how on earth did he manage it? There's no furniture in that hall whatever

—nothing he could have used to crawl across, nothing he could have swung himself from."

"It's a long, bare box, that's all; and the distance from the door to the circular room (in which, by the way, the dust on the floor was all matted up by the rescue party) is miles too far for anyone to have jumped it."

"Nor was the weapon the sort of thing that could possibly have been fired from a bow or a blow-pipe, or any nonsense of that sort; nor was it sharp enough or heavy enough to have penetrated as deep as it did if it had been thrown."

"Ghosts apart, what is the explanation? Can you see that?"

"Yes," said Fen, with annoying promptness. "I can. Answer me just one question, and I'll tell you how Otto worked it."

"Well?"

"The name on the window," said Fen dramatically. "Was it written in capital letters?"

"Yes," said Humbleby. "But—"

"Wait," Fen was on his feet. "Wait while I make a telephone call." And this Humbleby performed did, knowing fretfully at an unlit cheroot until his host returned.

"You," said Fen kindly, "have got locked rooms on the brain. The explanation of how Otto got into and out of that circular room is simple; he didn't get into or out of it at all."

Humbleby gaped. "But Sir Lucas can't have been knifed before he entered the circular room, Sir Charles said—"

"Ah, yes. Sir Charles saw him go in—or so he asserts. And—"

"That objection's based, of course, on your assumption that he was struck before he ever entered the pavilion."

"I expect he did just that—wrote the name on the outside of the window, I mean."

"But the people who read it were on the inside. Inside a bank, for instance, haven't you ever noticed how the bank's name—"

"The name Otto," Fen interposed, "is a palindrome. It reads the same backwards as forwards. What's more, the capital letters used in it are symmetrical. Write it on the outside of a window and it will look exactly the same from the inside."

"Good heavens, yes," Humbleby was sobered. "I never thought of that. And the fact that the name was on the outside would be fatal to Sir Charles, after his assertion that he'd seen Sir Lucas enter the pavilion unharmed, so I suppose that the 'contriving' Wilburn noted in the fight was Sir Charles's, not Otto's; he'd realised that the name must be on the outside—Sir Lucas having said that the writing of it was the very first thing he did—and he'd see the need to destroy the window before anyone could investigate closely."

"Wait, though: couldn't Sir Lucas have entered the pavilion as Sir Charles said, and later emerged again, and—"

"One set of footprints," Fen pointed out, "on the hall floor. Not three."

Humbleby nodded. "I've been a fool about this. But what was Sir Charles's motive—the motive Sir Lucas didn't know about?"

"Belchester," said Fen. "Belchester Cathedral. As you know, it was bombed in the war, and a new one is to be built."

"Well, I've just rung up the Dean, who's an acquaintance of mine, to ask about the choice of architect, and he says that it was a toss-up between Sir Charles's design and Sir Lucas's, and that Sir Lucas's won."

"The two men were notified by post, and it seems likely that Sir Charles's notification arrived on the morning of Christmas Eve. Sir Lucas's was sent to his home, and even forwarded it can't, in the rush of Christmas postal traffic, have reached him at Rydalls before he was killed."

"So only Sir Charles knew; and since with Sir Lucas dead Sir Charles's design would have been accepted—"

Fen shrugged. "Was it the money, I wonder? Or was it just another blow to his professional pride? Well, well. Let's have another drink before you telephone. In the hangman's shed it will all come to the same thing."

The PICK OF THE PRESENTS...

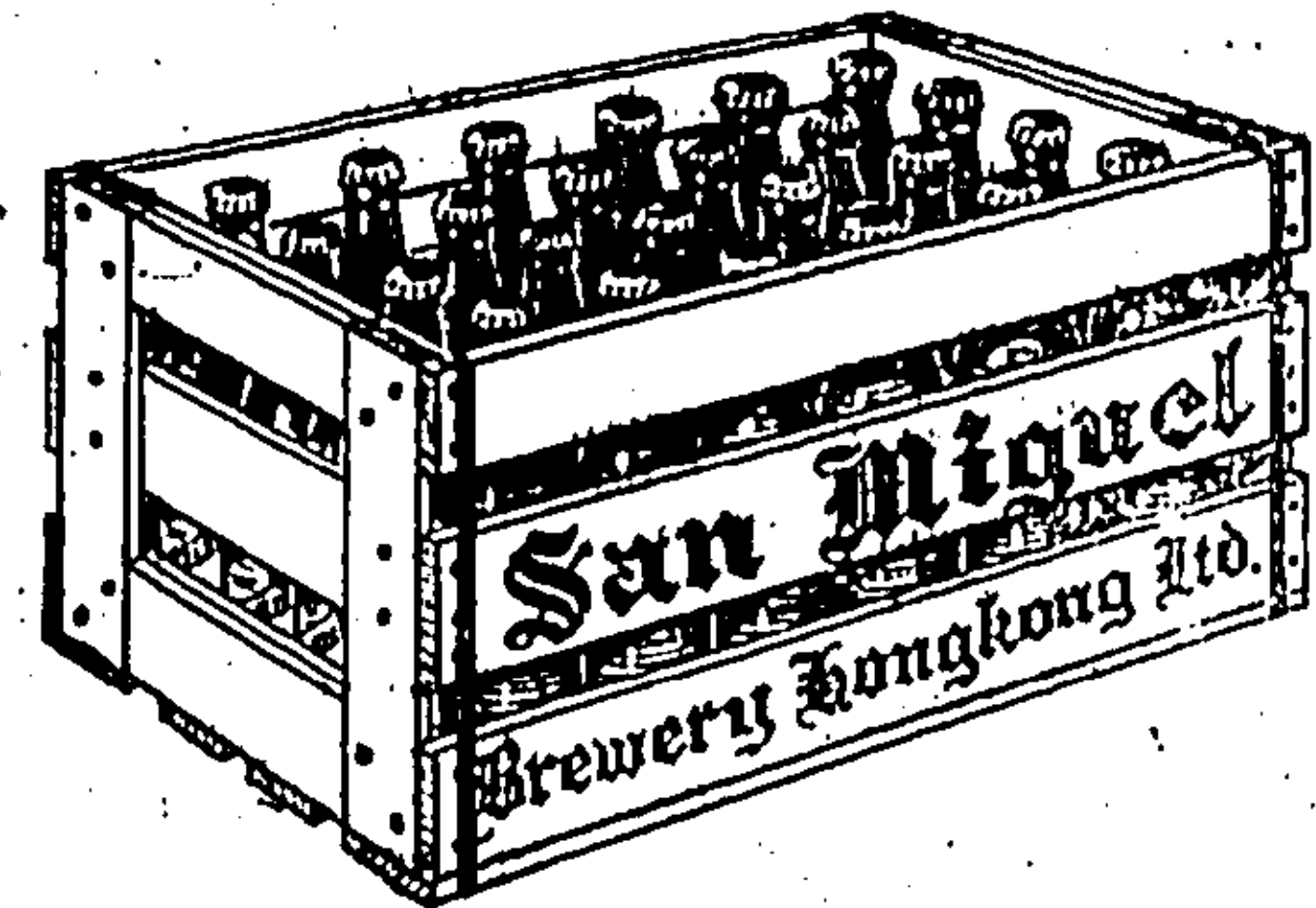
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ARTIE'S HEADLINE



Gift Books For The Young

BOOKSELLERS say that Enid Blyton and Beatrix Potter are the most popular authors when it comes to choice of Christmas gift books for young people. They have a variety of titles, but Enid Blyton has five omnibus volumes—The Happy Story Book, Merry Story Book, Sunny Story Book, Gay Story Book and Lucky Story Book—which are all selling very well.

For the boys, G. A. Henty is holding his own. The tales told by this old dependable are always appealing.

For the very young, the Rupert books stocked by the South China Morning Post, Ltd. are ideal. The Rupert cartoon stories in the China Mail have built up a big following for this engaging character.

Chiang Yee's "Dabbie," a tale about a Chinese boy and his water buffalo. This is also illustrated by the author.

Uncle Remus, Snowwhite, Bambi and Peter Pan are retold by Walt Disney in well-finished, attractive illustrated volumes.

Then there are the stalwarts of every Christmas—the various Annuals, Modern Books and Wonder Books. There are enough of these to suit youngsters from five to fifteen.

Others worth noting down: Winnie the Pooh books, the Illustrated Classics, the William series by Richard Crompton, the Bedside Book for Children and the Oxford Junior Encyclopedia—ACG.

Miss Ho Yuen-yee's new Chinese fairy tale, "The Magic Scroll," published by the S. C. M. Post, is admirably illustrated by the author, and will be treasured by all ages.

Another Chinese story that will be found acceptable is

A BOOK TO TALK ABOUT

IS CHANDLER GETTING TOO SLOW ON THE TRIGGER?

RAYMOND CHANDLER must be slipping. In his latest novel, *The Long Good-Bye* (Hamish Hamilton, 10s. 6d.), there is not a suggestion of murder until page 32. And then it is only a hint.

In the old days things were much tougher. I recall a short story of his hardly more than 30 pages—in which he comfortably crammed four homicides, three brutal assaults, one kidnapping, one blackmail, and a nice variety of minor beatings.

Now that he is 65 it may be that Chandler is getting soft. Or even worse, cynical. "As I look back on my own stories," he has said, "it would be absurd if I did not wish they had been better. But if they had been much better they would not have been published."

The Long Good-Bye—Chandler's first book in four years—makes no serious attempt to escape from this unambitious formula.

His private detective, Philip Marlowe (25 dollars a day and expenses), has to discover who is buried in the skull of a rich, hunched nymphomaniac. Chandler's female victims seldom die with their high heels on.

His investigations lead him into the company of a police

captain who "solves crimes with the bright light, the kick to the kidneys, the fist, to the solar plexus, the night stick to the base of the spine"; a dream of a blonde who has a voice "like the stuff they use to line summer clouds with"; a manic-depressive who slips on brass knuckles as often as gloves; a dipsomaniac novelist and a number of dope-peddling doctors.

You have probably met most of them before—if you have read any other Chandler novel. Even in details they are similar. The millionaire, who can control the corrupt police force, has two wild daughters; a missing suspect always carries with him 5,000 dollars in "mad money"; and the women all kiss hard.

WHEN IN DOUBT

In Chandler's first novel, *The Big Sleep*, it was a rich general who controlled everything and had two mad daughters; the missing suspect carried 15,000 dollars in mad money; and the women still kissed hard.

"When in doubt," Chandler has advised aspiring thriller writers, "have a man come through the door with a gun in his hand." Or, it seems, take a peek at one of your other novels.

Raymond Chandler was born in the proper place for a tough thriller writer—Chicago. But

his education was most inapplicable. He spent five years at Dulwich (some time between the days of P. G. Wodehouse and C. S. Forester), and the rest of his education was in France and Germany.

As a young man he tried journalism, but he discovered a natural talent for analytical accounting. It was not until he was well into his forties that he tried his hand at detective fiction. He sold a short story "Blackmailers Don't Shoot" to a pulp magazine called *Black Mask*.

After that he sold everything he wrote. His novels, *The Big Sleep*, *Farwell My Lovely*, and *The Lady in the Lake*, have been received with cooling noises by intellectual critics. Somerset Maugham has acclaimed him the most brilliant of the violence-with-benzene school of fiction.

Chandler can number among his rewards for success many highly lucrative film scripts, large royalties, and a £15,000 house in a suburb of San Diego. But he is less enthusiastic about his abilities than some of his admirers.

"As a writer," he says, "I have never been able to take

myself with that enormous earnestness which is one of the trying characteristics of the craft."

Chandler, a self-confessed follower of the Dashiell Hammett tradition of extrovert writing, has stimulated a brand of fiction which seems in danger of getting out of control.

RUDER, SEXIER

His characters and situations were tougher, ruder, blunter, sexier, meaner than Hammett's. It was only natural that the next master of the art—Mickey Spillane—would try to crawl even lower still.

Where Chandler's naked women are usually resisted or murdered, Spillane's are roasted over slow fires. Where Chandler's detective has a conscience about brutality Spillane's reveals in it.

Detection as practised by Agatha Christie or Dorothy Sayers has little place in this genre. Nobody much cares who murdered whom. It's the fun and games on the way that count.

The Long Good-Bye still has the ingenuity, slickness, and pace of Chandler's other work. But the odour of decadence that pervades his recent half-world of nylon and vice is beginning to pull him in. It's about time somebody turned on a ventilating fan?

PARADE

WHETHER TO DRESS To walk naked or veiled oneself in clothing—that was the question hotly debated in Nigeria's steamy-warm House of Representatives at Lagos.

Introducing the motion, staid, respectable Mr. D.C. Ugwu moved that "This House regards the nudity of grown-ups, as practised in some parts of the country, as a national shame and desires the introduction of a decency bill making the practice unlawful." Deploring Mr. Ugwu: "People are not ashamed of walking stark naked in public."

Then up sprang Mr. Shettima Kashim, Minister of Social Services and one who respects the old traditions. Said Mr. Kashim: "Legislation must not be used to kill old customs! In some areas, the women believe that the wearing of clothes reduces fertility."

But Mr. Obafemi Awolowo, leader of the House's Action group, blamed Britain for this undressed state of affairs.

Cried he: "It is a shameful reflection on the British that, after sixty years' rule, some people in Nigeria are still naked. Where customs are repugnant to decency, it is the government's duty to change the custom."

"Ah!" replied the Chief Secretary to the Government, Mr. A.T. Benson. "If such a bill were introduced, the Government would require a Nudity Traffic Unit to enforce it."

SCOTSMEN AND BREAKFAST Maybe oatmeal is a substance fit only for Scotsmen and horses, but three-quarters of Scotland don't agree. They think it's fit only for horses.

For this piece of vital information we are indebted to Britain's breakfast food-makers, busy planning the Battle of the Breakfast Table.

In a sort of Kinsey Report on the British Animal at 7 a.m., they reveal some startling information—most of it, from their point of view, disheartening.

To begin with, almost half Britain doesn't eat ANY breakfast. The multitude who make do with a pot of tea and a slice of bread count as a non-breakfasters. But they're on the "hopeful" list. Presumably, they are open to conversion.

The real backsliders are the flush citizens who insist on reverting to the medieval (well pre-Kellogg) practice of stuff-

ing themselves with chops and sausages. They are the targets in the forthcoming battle.

Oddly enough, though, British now eat eight times as much prepared breakfast cereal as they did before the war. And all of it is produced in Britain. In 1950, almost a third of the breakfast food was imported from—you guess where.

GAME FOR SALE Top buyers of wild animals nowadays, according to East Africa's big game trappers, are Germany and Japan.

Both countries are re-stocking their zoos which closed down during and after the war. And both are expected to send steady orders to the game trappers for several years ahead.

Representative of the animals in demand are those in one of the largest consignments: ever shipped from Mombasa now underway to Japan.

Included are one rhino, four giraffes, nine zebras, two cheetahs, four giant tortoises, a giant lizard and twenty-two birds.

Prime specimen is a black giraffe—extremely rare.

THE CID GOES TO THE ZOO Detective—Sergeant Brown. Constable—Harold Davis. Of West Riding CID fingerprint bureau, having met their most difficult subject. They went to Belle Vue Zoo, Manchester, and spent the afternoon persuading monkeys to give them their fingerprints.

Both officers were off duty, but the records were taken with the same side and a parallel they were hunting criminals. When completed the record will fit into a research investigation on heredity and evolution which Sergeant Brown started three years ago.

Already he has made records of 200 sets of human twins. Now he has started to collect the fingerprints of primates.

HIRSUME Mr. William Humsinger Haynes, aged 43, of Oxford, has had a 73-inch mustache for more than 50 years. Mr. Haynes' friends claim that his whiskers are the finest set in the city.

He started to grow them when he was in the Royal Navy. Mr. Haynes says he ran away from home at the age of nine to join the Navy. After 12 years in the Senior Service he returned to Oxford and a quieter life, but the First World War saw him in uniform again, this time as a private in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

The whiskers were going great guns now. They survived the German blitz on Oxford, France and Flanders, and finally flourished to their greater glory in one of Oxford's quietest backwaters. The years have reduced the ends somewhat—there used to be strong protrusions when he played competitive day games, but opponents who complained that they could not see the board properly—but William and his mates are as proud of them as ever.

SOMETHING IN IT London's Phoenix theatre is looking for a cat—and, for once, there's something in it for the cat. An ad in a London evening paper offered £3 a week—plus milk—for a sleek black cat with some acting ability. Misadventures will be held next week.

OBSESSIONS The British Medical Association's latest pronouncement on obsessions gives a feeling of marked relief. Insistence on tidiness and punctuality, says the B.M.A., is a symptom of advanced obsession—a mental disease which may land you with the idea you're Napoleon if you press it far enough.

That applies, too, to the "houseproud" wife who runs around whisking off specks of dust and folding away newspapers.

What's it all about? Quite simple, really. In our confused and highly-specialised industrial society most of us have to force ourselves to perform highly specialised tasks which we don't really like.

That means developing rigid behaviour patterns from which we won't allow ourselves to deviate. But it means, too, a tugging between suppressed urges and our actual behaviour.

When obsession gets a mild hold, you find yourself dealing back into the house six or seven times a day, sure the gas is turned off, turning when someone is a minute late for an appointment, and spending half your time keeping your desk clear.

But watch it! That compulsive jockey may not be so easy to

VIGNETTES OF LIFE

Christmas Preview

BY HARRY WEINERT

"DON'T GET ANY FANCY IDEAS."

FOR SEVERAL DAYS ALL THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN OPEN AT THE FUR COAT ADS

"LOOKING FOR THIS SECTION DEAR?"

"MAY I BORROW ONE OF YOUR STOCKINGS SIS?"

"WHY DON'T YOU ASK AUNT. SHE WEARS SIZE TEN"

SANTA CAN'T PUT MUCH IN A LITTLE SOCK.

"ANY MAIL FOR ME PAL?"

"DO YOU REMEMBER WHO GAVE US THIS ONE?"

UNLOADING SOME OF LAST YEAR'S PRIZES. JUST BE SURE YOU DON'T GET YOUR WIRES CROSSED.

THEY ARE EITHER TOO YOUNG OR TOO OLD —

"AI-YA, POP"

HOW TO HAVE A WHITE CHRISTMAS — (HAIR—THAT IS)

JUST THE TREE YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR — AND RIGHT ON YOUR NEIGHBOR'S LAWN.

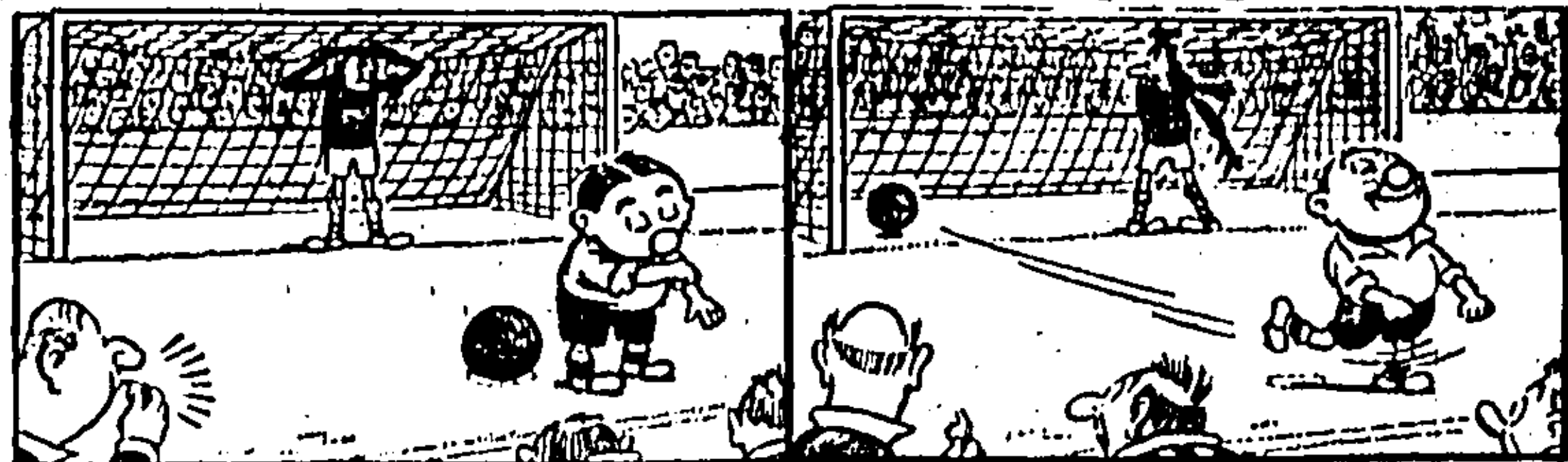
"HOW DO YOU SPELL MOTORCYCLE?"

"THIS PAPER IS TOO SMALL"

AFTER DOING THEIR HOMEWORK WITHOUT PROTEST, THE KIDS GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS.

SPORTING SAM

By Reg. Wootton



UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS SEEM TO BE A PART OF LOCAL FOOTBALL AFFAIRS

Says I. M. MacTAVISH

The past week has been one of intense activity in the local football world. On the field there has been special training for some of the potential Colony players, and a rather lifeless trial match at Caroline Hill on Wednesday afternoon. Elsewhere there have been several important meetings where equally important decisions were made, and where several representative teams were selected.

Once again what should have been an outstanding week for the fans has been spoiled by another of these unfortunate incidents that seem to be a part of local football affairs.

At the meeting of the Hong Kong Football Association on Monday night a new Selection Committee was set up and the first duty of this body was to select the Colony representative sides to take the field against Pegasus.

The teams they have selected may not satisfy everyone—although personally I think they have done a good job—but the really important thing is that the fruits of their deliberations have been fairly and unreasonably prejudiced by a thoughtless statement credited to Mr. Lee Wai-tung, the HKFA's official coach, a statement which was published side by side with the official team selections in some sections of the local press.

In this statement Mr. Lee is credited with naming the two teams which he considered should be the ones to represent the Colony. These selections are at considerable variance with the selections of the committee whose job it was to make the choice.

IMPOSSIBLE POSITION
The position now is virtually impossible. On one hand we have an official coach who is on record with a statement which could mean that the teams he has to coach are not, by his standards, the best that might have been selected from our available talent, and on the other hand we have the selection players who realise that they are under a coach who does not consider that they are the right—or best—men for the job on hand.

How can such a set-up produce for us the successful sides that we seek... and how can the Selection Committee accept such circumstances when obviously there are wide differences between its ideas and those of the man who is in technical charge of the teams.

The rights and wrongs of the situation are quite definite. The coach made an indiscreet blunder when he allowed his personal views to be voiced abroad. His job was to maintain absolute silence until the teams were selected and then, whatever he thought of the selections, to give the chosen players the best service he could to blend them into successful playing units.

This he can no longer do for he has prejudiced his own position, and his relations with the players, by this thoughtless act.

Altogether it is a position which the HKFA must take

immediate steps to rectify in order that the players may be enabled to take up their big match preparations without any undercurrent of uncertainty.

Hypothetical cases are always interesting—and one wonders what would happen at the Headquarters of the Football Association in England if, on the day an international team was announced, Walter Winterbottom, the official Manager/Coach of the English team, was to publish an alternative list of players with an underlying theme that they are the ones who should have been selected!

CAUSED CONCERN
The announcement of the formation of the new Selection Committee has caused some concern in certain places. It was reported at the time of formation that the Committee would be responsible for the selection of all representative teams with the exception of the Combined Chinese.

It would seem from this statement that the committee would be responsible for the selection of the Combined Services sides... and as the committee is at present constituted that can hardly be acceptable in all quarters.

The Royal Navy, which has a long and honourable connection with football in the Colony, is not represented on this Committee and it is inconceivable that any Combined Services side should be selected by representatives of the two other Services and five civilians without the Navy having any say.

The Combined Services are in exactly the same position as the Combined Chinese in this respect, and the selection of their teams must remain a domestic responsibility of the representatives of the three Services... and of them alone.

WEEK-END MATCHES
There is a full programme of League matches this week-end and local fans will have plenty of choice when deciding on their soccer entertainment. The list is as follows:—

Today
Navy v. Club, at the Club Stadium.
RAF v. Army, at Sookunpoo.
CAA v. Kwong Wah at Boundary Street.
KMB v. St. Joseph's at Caroline Hill.

Tomorrow
Sing Tao v. South China at the Club Stadium.
Kitchee v. Eastern at Caroline Hill.

The two best games on the programme seem to be the

inter-Services clash of the RAF and the Army today, and meeting of Sing Tao and South China tomorrow.

Earlier in the season the RAF were beaten 3-1 by the Army and as the soldiers have maintained good form since then it would seem at first glance as though they must be favourites for this game, but these inter-Services matches cannot be judged on form alone as the healthy rivalry that exists can often produce an unexpected result.

The Airman gave a fine display in their recent meeting with KMB and it Jones and MacLaren have recovered from the injuries they received last week they will give their opponents a hard fight for the points.

On form, however, the Army must start favourites and if Wells and Longland are back in the team they should be enough to make sure of a sound victory.

DIFFICULT
The meeting of Club and Navy should produce a brisk tussle and the ultimate result is indeed difficult to forecast.

Both sides are liable to hit the high spots, but they are also capable of turning in the sort of game that breaks the hearts of their supporters.

The Club are playing well and, of course, they have in Keane a potential match winner. I think they can pick up two valuable points in this game, especially if they show the same spirit as they did against South China.

In the other two games today, Kwong Wah should get the better of struggling CAA and KMB should experience little trouble in disposing of St. Joseph's at Caroline Hill.

There will be a large crowd at the Club ground tomorrow to see the big clash of Sing Tao and South China. This game has all the possibilities of a grand encounter and if Ho Cheung-yau, who was injured in the Colony trial match on Wednesday, is fit to take the field there may be very little in it at the end.

With Ko Po-keung back in the team and Yui Chouk-yn back in top form, South China look possible winners, but only by a narrow margin.

Kitchee have not yet shown the form that was expected from them, but they should be too fast and too clever for Eastern in the game at Caroline Hill.

The Kitchee boys must get on with the job of scoring goals. All the clever midfield play

LEAGUE CRICKET AVERAGES

FIRST DIVISION

BATTING

(Qualification—150 runs)

	Inns	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Aver.
T. A. Pearce (Scorpions)	6	2	79	200	60
G. A. Souza (CCC)	10	1	111*	440	48.9
Lt. De Cruz (Army)	9	3	99*	215	35.9
A. R. Kitchell (IRC)	6	3	58	170	35.0
H. Owen-Hughes (Scorpions)	8	2	37*	210	35
Surg. L. Miller (Navy)	7	1	60*	180	33
Lt. Stanton (Scorpions)	9	2	91	229	32.7
T. G. C. Knight (Scorpions)	8	1	73	224	32
Lt. Farmer-Wright (Army)	8	1	99*	217	31
Lt. Agar (Navy)	5	0	80	132	30.4
P. Wood (KCC)	10	1	54*	250	28.4
L. G. Gosano (Recreio)	7	1	79*	167	27.8
R. W. Franklin (Optimists)	8	0	69	219	27.4
LAC Armstrong (RAF)	8	2	75	158	26.3
A. T. Lee (KCC)	9	3	97*	165	25.8
J. C. Koh (IRC)	9	1	78	206	25.7
Surg. Comm. Pearson (Navy)	8	1	58*	170	25.1
Cpl. West (RAF)	9	0	57	204	22.7
L. Kibbee (Optimists)	8	0	52	180	22.5
P. V. Dodge (KCC)	10	0	58	225	22.5
A. K. Maniar (IRC)	9	0	43	152	19
A. S. Sadi (Navy)	9	0	73	161	17.0
K. Y. Tam (CCC)	11	0	35	196	17.8
H. P. Mader (CCC)	11	0	35	173	15.8

BOWLING

(Qualification—15 wickets)

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Average
L/Cpl. Dowling (Army)	80.5	16	257	41	6.2
K. G. Spink (Optimists)	69.6	18	182	24	7.6
Ldg. Slt. Sims (Navy)	36.1	9	138	15	9.2
G. N. Gosano (Recreio)	83.2	7	363	29	12.5
T. P. Mahon (Optimists)	56.2	11	189	15	12.6
Flt. Sgt. Harsham (RAF)	68.5	2	345	27	12.7
AB Short (Navy)	59.5	4	207	16	12.9
G. A. Souza (CCC)	65.2	11	202	15	13.4
B. Carnell (KCC)	65.6	4	246	17	14.6
L. Stanton (Scorpions)	60.5	5	300	21	14.7
J. C. Koh (IRC)	71.4	8	352	22	16
R. E. Lea (KCC)	60	4	283	16	17.7
P. J. Billimoria (CCC)	86.3	9	325	18	18.1
S. M. Teh (HKU)	88.1	10	416	19	21.9

TODAY'S CRICKET

By "THE ZOMBIE"

Although there is no scheduled programme for First Division Cricket League matches this afternoon, four clubs are taking the opportunity of playing off their postponed matches.

Considering that there are still eight other matches outstanding, it is rather surprising that more clubs do not make use of this week-end to catch up with their postponed games.

The results of both this afternoon's matches will not substantially affect the race for the Senior Division Championship in which Army and Scorpions are well in the lead. However, both games should provide interesting cricket.

Royal Air Force will be evenly matched against Recreio at Kai Tak. Great enterprise will have to be shown by both sides to prevent the match from petering out to a draw.

The airman have slightly the better bowling side, and the Recs a more steady batting eleven.

The Gosano brothers, Luigi and Gerry, will be the key men and if the RAF can get

them out early at a fairly low score, they should be able to win the match.

Otherwise, it is very doubtful that their unpredictable batting can bring them a substantial score against the steady bowling of Recreio.

SHOULD DO BETTER

In the other First Division match, Optimists will entertain IRC at Chater Road. The first encounter between the two teams ended in a narrow win by one wicket for the IRC after the Optimists had declared their innings at 127 runs for three wickets.

The Optimists should be able to do better this afternoon and will, after the experience in their first encounter, attach more importance to scoring a little faster should they take first-tenne of the wicket.

A number of clubs have found that too accurate bowling directed at the wicket against the IRC batsmen only makes a draw more likely. Varied tactics will have to be employed by the Optimists in the attack if they are to force a win.

TODAY'S MATCHES

First Division

Optimists v. IRC

RAF v. Recreio

Second Division

IRC v. RAF

Recreio v. Dockyard

KGV v. DBS

KCC v. Navy

TOMORROW

Friendly match

KCC v. DRCC

Second Division

Police v. HKU

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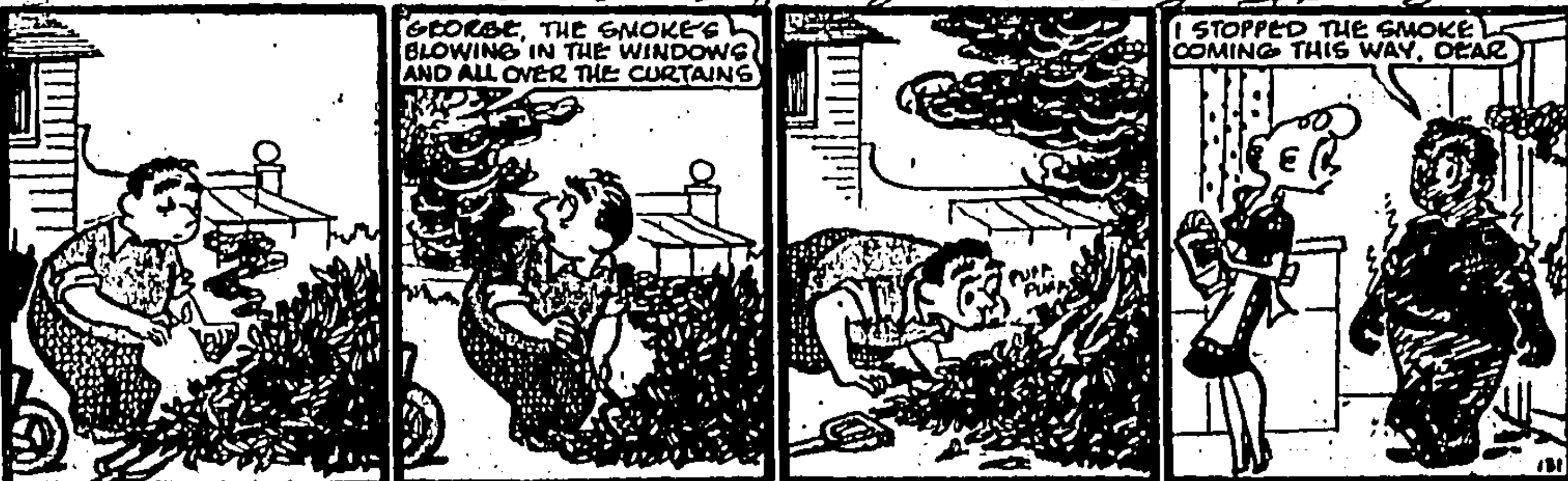
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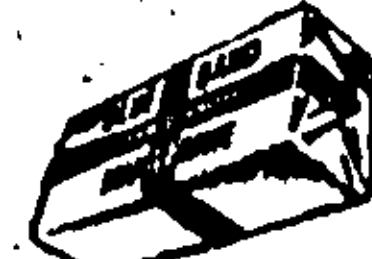
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STORY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The CHRISTMAS CARD MYSTERY

By Peter Graham

"I THINK there's something funny about him," said Tony, climbing down from the stepladder. "He isn't the sort I'd imagine Uncle Fred to have as a friend."

"Well, he certainly isn't the life and soul of the party," said Jo, handing her brother the end of the next streamer. "Which is rather odd, when you think about Uncle Fred's other friends."

They were discussing Mr. Henry Potter who, at their father's invitation, was staying with the family for Christmas. Mr. Potter had turned up at Greenways Farm three days ago, after walking with his small suitcase all the way from the nearest town Milton, and had introduced himself as a friend of their Uncle Fred in America. Uncle Fred had told him, he said, "that they sure will give you a real old fashioned Christmas if you call on them."

So Mr. Potter had been asked to stay for Christmas, and in the evenings he and the children's father, Mr. Robinson, would sit and talk for hours about America. During the day Mr. Potter went for long walks across the farm, and could often be seen by the children as they played in the loft over the barn, poking around in some corner of a distant field.

"Have you seen all the Christmas cards he's got?" asked Tony, gingerly mounting the ladder again, with the streamer in one hand.

"Yes," said Jo. "And I'll tell you something. They have all been posted to him in this country. You'd expect them all to come from America, wouldn't you?"

Tony fixed the end of the streamer, and together they looked at the rows of brightly coloured cards set out along the mantelpiece. Jo picked up one of them, and handed it to Tony.

"Look at this one," she opened the card and read "Hope all very enjoyable. Your other Uncle Fred offered us new dog today. Hope enjoy presents. Love and Cheerio. Edna."

"That's strange," said Tony. "He's only been in the country four days, but someone living here writes to him as though he were part of a family circle over here."

He sat down in the big armchair, staring at the card and lost in thought. Jo picked up another card and read it. "Just a minute," said Tony suddenly. "Here's something very peculiar. Look, Jo: if you take all the first letters of the words you seem to get a message. 'Hope all very enjoyable. H.A.V.E. YOU FOUND THE PLACE. What on earth can that mean?'"

"Let's try this other one," cried Jo, excitedly. "It says 'Greetings, Sport! Sally says Peter two guineas nearly. Hoping see all jolly uncles soon. Blackie.'"

"G.S.S.P.," said Tony. "Well, that doesn't make sense," said Tony. They sat looking at the rather disjointed messages, racking their brains. Suddenly Jo whistled, and jumped up in excitement. "It's a message.... Take the third from last letter of each word—The N from greetings, the O from sport—And why get NO LETTER IS ALL OK."

"This all looks very funny," said Tony darkly. "I think we'd better show it to Dad, and see what he thinks."

Together they ran down to their father's study. As they got there the door opened and Mr. Potter walked out, talking to their father. He was talking to the children, with a rather false smile, said "Goodnight!" and walked off upstairs. "Well, what are you two looking so secretive about," said Mr. Robinson, going back into his study. "And why aren't you in bed at this hour?"

"Look, Dad," replied Tony, and together they showed their father what they had discovered. As first Mr. Robinson just laughed at their findings. "It may be just a joke," he said. But then he paused and looked at the third card which the children had brought in with them. This card, obviously home-made, contained no message and was simply signed BILL. On the front it

bore a design of 30 Christmas candles round the edge, a large star with one arm longer than the others, and a little picture of three trees and what appeared to be a ruined building. "That's unusual," he murmured. "Look, kids. Does this picture look to you like anything on the farm?"

"Yes it does," cried Jo. "It could be a drawing of the old shed and the trees at the bottom of Long Meadow."

"I wonder," mused their father. "And the 30 candles might mean 30 feet—or 30 yards—and the star seems to point South—in that case he'd try tonight."

He went over to the phone and dialled the police station in Milton. Afterwards he told Tony and Jo to pretend to go to bed, but to be ready to get up immediately he knocked on the door.

Highly excited, Jo and Tony went off to bed, and the house became still. They could hear the chiming clock downstairs ringing three o'clock when there were soft footsteps on the stair, and then silence again. Five minutes later their father appeared. "Keep very quiet," he whispered. "Together they went out into the garden to find three policemen there, and silently they all made their way off towards the bottom of Long Meadow, about a mile away. At one time Jo thought she saw a shadowy figure silhouetted against the hill ahead of them."

They reached Long Meadow, and one of the policemen led them quietly to a position behind a tree from which they could see the ruined shed standing in the moonlight. And there about 30 feet from the shed, digging quickly at a spot on the ground, and from time to time looking cautiously about him, was Mr. Henry Potter. They could hear the soft bump of his spade as he drove it into the earth.

The Sergeant, the other policeman, and Mr. Robinson stole quietly towards the shed from the opposite side. Suddenly there was a sharp metallic sound as the spade struck something, and Mr. Potter let out a smothered exclamation. He bent and pulled a square box out of the hole into the moonlight. And at this moment Mr. Robinson and the two policemen jumped out from the side of the shed, which they had reached. There was a quick scuffle, some muffled shouts, and then Mr. Potter was being securely held by the policemen. The other policeman ran over, with Tony and Jo following breathlessly, and peered at the half salvaged box. With a sharp blow from the spade he knocked off the lock, and pulled back the lid, disclosing a pile of notes, papers and some objects wrapped in cloth.

"You two were right to be suspicious," he said to Tony and Jo. "Do you know what this is. It's the proceeds of the robbery of Milton Bank two years ago. We caught the robber, Bill Jackson, but we never found the money. This chap," he indicated Henry Potter, "must be a friend of Jackson, who has just been released from prison. Jackson knows that we have been watching him to see if he would lead us to the money. He doesn't see in the neighbourhood, so he hit on the idea of planting his accomplice down here to get it for him. Those messages on the cards will be from Jackson."

"But how," asked Tony and Jo together, "did this man know about Uncle Fred in America?"

"Quite easy, really," said the Sergeant. "He simply made enquiries from people who know you, and probably has pals in America who could find out the rest of the details. Then he just made up a few Greenways, introduced himself as your Uncle's friend and unsuspectingly, you invited him to stay. This sort of criminal goes to a lot of trouble to prepare the way for his misdoings. He was smart of you two to hit on the message idea. There will be a reward for this, which should make a very big Christmas present for you."

"Well, it looks as though you'll be able to have those two bicycles you wanted for Christmas, after all," said Mr. Robinson, later, when the policeman had taken Potter away, and he and the two children made their way back to Greenways across the moonlit fields.

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SAILINGS TO		
"YCHOH"	Bangkok	10 a.m. 23rd Dec.
"FAKH"	Shanghai	3 p.m. 24th Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"FAKH"	Shanghai	9.30 a.m. 20th Dec.
"YCHOH"	Kobe	21st Dec.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO		
"TAIPING"	Japan	9th Jan.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"SINKIANG"	Melbourne & Manila	30th Dec.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said

	Leads	Sails
"CYCLOPS"	Liverpool & Dublin	23rd Dec. 24th Dec.
"AUTOLYCUS"	Genoa, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London, Antwerp & Hamburg	20th Dec. 28th Dec.
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Jan. 6th Jan.
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan. 14th Jan.
"CLITONEUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan. 23rd Jan.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

	Sails	Arrives
S. "ANCHISES"	Liverpool	Hong Kong 20th Dec.
G. "CLITONEUS"	Sailed	28th Dec.
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	8th Jan. 1954
G. "TYRRIUS"	do	13th Jan. 1954
S. "EUMAEUS"	18th Dec.	25th Jan. 1954
G. "ASCANIUS"	24th Dec.	20th Jan. 1954
S. "AGAPENOR"	3rd Jan.	7th Feb. 1954
G. "PELEUS"	13th Jan.	13th Feb. 1954

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool. S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool. Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

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	Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"AGAMEMNON"	Sailed	Sailed	30th Dec.
"DONA AURORA"	do	do	19th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	2nd Jan.	31st Jan.
"BATAAN"	24th Dec.	15th Jan.	13th Feb.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	14th Jan.	5th Feb.	6th Mar.

SAILING for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES & CRISTOBAL.

	Leads	Sails
"BENARES"	21st Dec.	22nd Dec.
"AJAX"	4th Jan.	5th Jan.
"HAINAN"	19th Jan.	20th Jan.

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(Connects at Bangkok with U.B.A. on Tuesdays for Bangkok)		
HK/Amoy/D.H. Burnao (DC-4)	6.20 a.m. Tue. Fri.	8.40 p.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Batavia/Singapore (DC-4)	11.00 a.m. Wed.	5.00 p.m. Thu.
HK/Hanoi/Hai Phong (DC-3)	10.00 a.m. Wed.	2.40 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Batavia (DC-4)	11.00 a.m. Sat.	4.30 p.m. Sun.

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ARE YOU UP WITH THE NEWS?

A QUIZ ON 1953

EVENTS OF THE YEAR

1. This year the Prime Minister of Britain was made a Knight of the Garter. Where and in what month did the ceremony take place?
2. The new Prime Minister of Persia who overthrew Mossadegh is General Zohedi. He had held a government post formerly. What was it?
3. When Malenkov took over after Stalin's death, how old was he? 55, 51, 63, or 47?
4. What famous American Republican Senator died this year?
5. The floods of East Anglia and Holland in January aroused worldwide sympathy. What comparable disaster took place later in the year elsewhere?
6. Everyone knows of Syngman Rhee, President of South Korea, but what is the name of his Prime Minister?
7. How many statesmen did President Auriol ask to become Prime Minister during France's Cabinet crisis before eventually succeeding with M. Laniel?
8. Where and when was this year's Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers held?
9. When the United Nations met in August to discuss the formation of a Political Conference on Korea, the admission of a certain country to this conference caused major controversy. What was the name of this country?
10. New armills were made for use at the Coronation. They were the gift of whom?

PEOPLE OF THE YEAR

1. Who carried the St Edward's Crown in the procession up the Abbey at the Coronation?
2. Who was the chief physician attendant on Queen Mary at the time of her death?
3. Italy got a new Prime Minister this year; what is his name?
4. Who is the Governor-General of the newly federated territory of Nyasaland and the Rhodesias?
5. What British climber led the reconnaissance expedition of 1951 which made this year's ascent of Everest possible?
6. This year a new Secretary-General of the United Nations took over from Mr Trygve Lie. What is his name?
7. Who prosecuted for the Crown in the Christie case which received so much publicity in Britain this summer?
8. Who was the fashion designer who this year caused a sensation by threatening short dresses again?
9. What distinguished Lord Mayor died in office this year?
10. At the Canadian elections in August Mr St Laurent and his Liberals came to power yet again. Who led the Conservatives, his nearest rivals?

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

THE YEAR AND THE ARTS

1. What artist has been appointed to paint the official state portrait of the Queen?
2. Name the composer and the librettist of the opera "The Rake's Progress", one of the highlights of this year's Edinburgh Festival.
3. An English company appeared in "Richard II" at the Rhodes Centenary Exhibition at Bulawayo. Who led the company?
4. What is meant in cinema parlance by stereophonic sound?
5. Two famous authors died this year: one was a Roman Catholic, the other until the latter part of his life an agnostic. Who were they?

THE YEAR AND SCIENCE

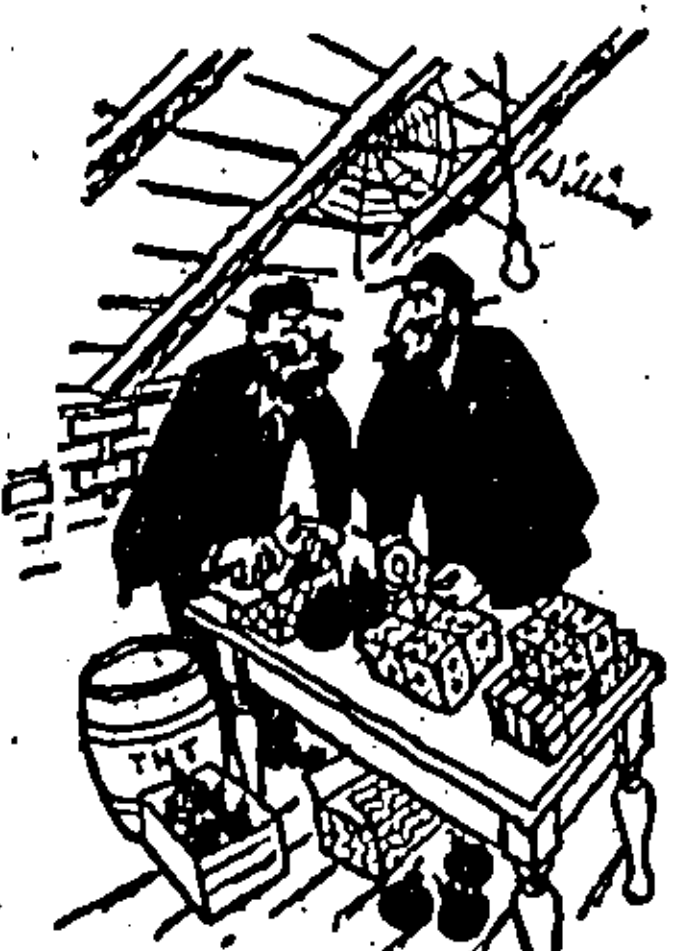
1. In August Russia revealed progress in competition with America in developing the hydrogen bomb. Approximately how much more powerful potentially is a hydrogen bomb than an atomic bomb?
2. To what do these nicknames refer—"The Nike" and "Honest John"?
3. Professor Picard hit the headlines this summer by trying in his bathyscope to break the record for deep-sea diving. In 1932 he made fame in a very different way: what did he do?
4. The British Association—august body of Commonwealth scientists—met this year in Liverpool. What was the name of the 1953 President?
5. What are optical bleachers?

THE YEAR AND SPORT

1. England regained the Ashes from Australia this year for the first time for 10 years. In what year did "The Ashes" originate?
2. In 1953 footballer Stanley Matthews and jockey Sir Gordon Richards each achieved a long sought-for prize. What were they?
3. Tommy Farr decided this year to give up his two-and-a-half year attempt to make a come-back after his defeat by whom?
4. A new record was set up at Wimbledon this year when Jaroslav Drobný and Budge Patty played a singles match lasting for 93 games. What was the previous record for the number of games in any one match at Wimbledon set up?
5. A famous golfer won the British Open Championship this year at the first attempt. Who was he?

THEY'VE EVEN GOT 3-D CHRISTMAS CARDS

By J. W. TAYLOR



"Let's skip Chibberowski, he never sends us one."

YOU probably would not be sending off those Christmas cards to your relatives and friends and receiving perhaps as many in return had not Henry Cole, in November 1843, realised that, for those times, he had left it rather late to write out and send Christ-

mas greetings to his many friends.

To save time, Cole, who was later to found the Victoria and Albert Museum and become Sir Henry Cole, commissioned artist R.C. Horsley, who ran an art shop in Bond Street, London, to design a greetings card for him.

A close second. It was thought that its little added to the public appeal—"Mother of Parliaments."

Also gaining ground is the "animated" card with cut-outs of reindeer, birds with flapping wings, or other features that stand out when the card is opened like a 3-D picture.

Favourite Place

And according to Mr C.W. Hayes, of Messrs Raphael Tuck, the biggest firm of greetings card manufacturers, the Dickensian scene still holds favourite place in public fancy in the Christmas card trade.

Tennyson once turned down an offer of a thousand guineas for a greetings card verse, an occupation that is now a full-time and highly paid one for the experts, who find that at Christmas time people still like a bit of the good old-fashioned sentiment, even though today they are more particular and study the verses carefully before making a choice.

Very much the vogue are the photographic cards showing a picture of the new baby, or perhaps the family posed primarily in the centre of a personal greeting. This was much favoured by Queen Mary, whose last batch of Christmas cards to relatives and friends featured the Queen on horseback at the Trooping of the Colour ceremony.

Gaining Ground

The year before last "the Queen, when Princess Elizabeth, chose for her card a picture of herself and the Duke driving in an open car during their Canadian visit on a route lined by cheering Canadians."

There are many people, too, who like the gathering Christmas or birthday cards. Last year the "happy" card, in twenty tones of blue and grey topped the popularity poll of the Tuck cards, with one picture of the House of Parliament.

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"CORFU"	10th December	12th January
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"CANTON"	10th January	12th February

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Homewards: Leaves Hongkong Due London.

"CORFU"

"CHUSAN"

"CANTON"

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Onwards: Arrives

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"SUNDA" 5th January

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sails 5th Jan. for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta

"WARORA" due 6th Jan. from Japan

sails 7th Jan. for Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta

"ANSUN" due 10th Jan. from Calcutta, Rangoon & Straits

sails 11th Jan. for Japan

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"UMARIA" due 21st Dec. from Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Straits

sails 23rd Dec. for Kobe, Hirokawa & Yokohama

"OKHLA" due 23rd Dec. from P. Gulf, Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Singapore

sails 24th Dec. for Nagoya, Kobe & Hirokawa

"ORNA" due 27th Dec. from Japan

sails 29th Dec. for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basrah. Also other P. Gulf Ports via Bombay

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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In Port Loading

Sails Dec. 19 for Kobe & Yokohama.

"LENEVERETT"

Arrives Dec. 24 from Singapore.

Sails Dec. 24 for Kobe & Yokohama.

"NOREVERETT"

Arrives Dec. 28 from Manila.

Sails Dec. 29 for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Calcutta & Chittagong.

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"STAR ALCYONE"

Arrives Dec. 22 from Singapore.

Sails Dec. 23 for Fusan, Kobe & Yokohama.

"STAR ARCTURUS"

Arrives Dec. 22 from Japan.

Sails Dec. 23 for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khorramshahr, Basrah & Bahrain.

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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

4. Let Pa slice for an out-of-the-ordinary helping (7)
8. Nothing exists to give you an appetite (6)
9. Thus we roll along (7)
10. Proposals from 24 Across (6)
11. Intertwine, unseal and join up (6)
12. Note pain among dinner guests when you take the easy way out (4, 1, 8)
18. Sounds like Christmas advice from the Postmaster General (8)
20. Nothing at top is baked with the bird (8)
21. The nutmeg is in the pudding (6)
22. Stun ape for a similar Christmas delicacy (7)
23. Abandon what sounds like the end of the meal (6)
24. Change at store. For an electric one? (7)

DOWN

1. May you have a large one at your Christmas dinner, starting with a final drink (7)
2. Captivating characters in many a pantomime (7)
3. Rather a limited choice in this meal, certainly no alcohol in the middle (3, 3)
5. Even absent friends get these (8)
6. Heard at Christmas (6)
7. Finally the cockles may be here (2, 4)
13. This tree is the place for the Christmas fairy (3, 2, 3)
14. For celebrating nothing as good as trips (7)
15. Christmas Day must always be (8, 4)
16. Affectionate message ends with refusal (4, 9)
17. Two of these days follow Christmas Day (6)
19. Christmas trees—but not from here (6)

(Solutions on Page 24)

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CHINA MAIL

Established 1842

Page 24

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1953.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Big Fight Night

ALMOST on the doorstep of that West End gymnasium, where prize-fighters are forever being wheeled, like infants to a clinic, to be weighed and checked by doctors, London seems to have acquired a new sports arena.

Night after night, the pavements between Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square have been the scene of principal and supporting bouts that, even without being billed in advance, have drawn sizable crowds of spectators.

Almost, these occasions have recaptured the spirit of the old days of the Fancy. For now, as then, bare knuckles are the rule, and fight go on until the police arrive.

A LONG CLINCH
THERE is one noticeable difference between the old way of it and the new. Instead of strong men, girls do battle with each other in the Piccadilly prize-ring.

Two, named Pat and Poppy, were engaged in a brisk bout the other evening. Pat is a slimy-bull, haughty brunette; Poppy, a rather confused-looking blonde, whose second fight in three days this was.

The two of them swayed in a long clinch, swearing at each other and breathing heavily down each other's neck, while a huge crowd called out for action, and offered advice.

All of a sudden, as it seemed, there was no crowd at all. Just the two girls locked in lonely conflict on the street corner.

'BREAK'
A POLICEMAN had appeared. He tapped the pair on the shoulder, like a referee in the ring. "Break it up," the policeman said. Then, metaphorically, he sent both girls to their corners—directing them to go away in opposite directions. They obeyed the order. Each marched smartly round the block. They met again, of course, and with happy cries, tore at each other's throats. A new crowd gathered. The policeman reappeared. Pat and Poppy were arrested. Next morning they were shown, still smouldering, into the dock at Bow Street together. Pat pleaded

not guilty. Poppy guilty to a charge of using insulting behaviour.

ROUND-BY-ROUND

THERE was a similar charge against Poppy, relating to her fight earlier in the week, and a third accusing her of not answering to that charge. She pleaded not guilty to the earlier exhibition bout.

A policeman gave Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Magistrate, a round-by-round description of the Pat-Poppy affair. Pat looked down her elegant nose at him. Poppy, as near as she could, turned her back.

"Do you want to say anything?" Sir Laurence asked Pat, since she had pleaded not guilty. "Yes," she said, with a curling lip and a challenging up tilt of her chin. "Excuse me," she said jolly to Poppy, pressing past her in the dock.

THE VERDICT

"I WAS only defending myself," Pat said. "That girl there was fighting me friend. I only put up me hands to protect myself."

Her looks and style were Spanish-romantic, her accent was homely Lancashire. Sir Laurence fined the pair £1 each, which was tantamount to declaring the whole affair a draw. Poppy was also ordered to forfeit her stake-money, or bail, for non-appearance after her earlier contest.

The two girls paid the money over. Then they turned their backs upon each other and stalked away. "I bin robbed," said the expression on Pat's pretty face, as she went; and, oddly enough, the look on Poppy's face said exactly the same.

DARTWORDS SOLUTION

DOMESDAY—Book—Revery—December—Merrit—Order—Older—Senior—Service—Servile—Cringing—Jingling—Jiggling—Wiggling—Nebulous—Scold—Scold—Scamp—Scave—Kneave—Hearts—Oak—Sack—Sleep—Sheer—Utter—Say—Sway—Rule—Thumb—Tom—Dick—Hairy—Ravage—Savage—Wild—Oats—Oat—Hops—Shen—Stop—Cap—Toe—Line—Life—Soul—Body—Guard—HONOUR.

'What's His Line?' Solution
RAILWAY PORTER
London Express Service.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"My sister went through the same stage—now she's grown up and wears nothing but blue jeans and loafers!"

Meteoric Dust Causes Heavy Rains

Canberra, Dec. 18.

An Australian scientist has put forward the theory that periodic heavy rains in different parts of the world are caused by meteoric dust.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Richard Casey, today described "this most remarkable theory" as one that may have high importance for mankind.

Its author is Dr. E. Hogg Bowen, a director of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Mr. Casey said Dr. Bowen seemed to have established the fact that individual days of very heavy rainfall occur almost simultaneously at many places, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere.

They appeared to occur about 30 days after the earth had passed through a meteoric shower. It had been known for many years that on the same days in the months of October, November and December, May, June and July the earth passed through streams of meteors and meteoric dust from outer space.

Dr. Bowen, an Australian, contended that it took approximately 30 days for very fine meteoric dust to percolate down through the atmosphere from outer space to the level at which rain was precipitated from rain clouds.

RADAR AWARD

Dr. Bowen was awarded £12,000 by the United Kingdom Government two years ago for his war work on radar.

Mr. Casey, who is also Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, said it was too early to say with certainty but Dr. Bowen's theory "appears to be one of the occasional brilliant pieces of research that form landmarks in science."

Mr. Casey said the inference was "that it is the meteoric dust in the atmosphere which triggers off rain clouds to produce excessive rain."

Quite the most important inference from Dr. Bowen's theory, Mr. Casey said, was the lead it gave to the problem of producing artificial rain.

His observations indicated that the rainfall on one of the meteoric dust days could be double that of the days adjacent to them. Much painstaking work remained to be done before the potential applications of Dr. Bowen's theory could be tested and it would be idle to anticipate the immediate practical consequences.—Router.

Flyweight Title

Geneva, Dec. 18.
Louis Skins of France retained his European flyweight title when he outpointed Nazareno Gannelli of Italy over 15 rounds here tonight.—Router.

BUSY TIME FOR GUIANA MISSION

Georgetown, British Guiana, Dec. 18.

The British Guiana Constitution Commission, which is to arrive here on January 6, may find itself faced with about a hundred memoranda from organisations and individuals, it was learned here today.

The People's Progressive Party and its three rival political organisations, which are now merged into one "United Democratic Party," are hard at work on long reports setting out views on what form the new constitution should take.

The institution of any new constitution before April, 1956, is thought to be unlikely here.

Meanwhile, American-born Mrs. Janet Jagan, Secretary-General of the People's Progressive Party, has denounced as wicked and malicious the suggestion that they should boycott the three-man commission. It is understood that both the P.P.P. and the United Democratic Party have both decided to support the retention of universal suffrage in British Guiana.

The P.P.P. is summoning an executive meeting within the next five days to decide whether the proposed Prime Minister, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, and the ex-Education Minister, Mr. L. F. Burnham, should hurry home from India to face the Constitution Commission.—France-Press.

Israeli Meat Ship Seized

United Nations, Dec. 18.
The Israeli delegation to the United Nations protested to the Council here today on the alleged seizure of a meat ship by the Egyptian authorities. The ship was said to have been on its way to an Israeli port. Israel reported the incident to the Chairman of the Council without asking the Council to take action at the moment.—France-Press.

Pyramid Found In Egypt: 6,500 Years Old

Cairo, Dec. 18.

An Egyptian archaeologist has discovered a pyramid buried in a hill near Cairo which is believed to be 6,500 years old.

He is 40-year old Dr. Zakaria Ganeim of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities and under his direction labourers are speeding up the excavation to reveal what may be the oldest dressed stone building in the world.

The Department of Antiquities also announced the discovery of an avenue of sphinxes in Upper Egypt near the site of Tutankhamen's tomb in the Valley of Kings.

Dr. Ganeim said today he was most anxious to get to the underground burial chambers inside the pyramid, as soon as possible, as they might throw light on missing chapters in the story of the Pharaohs.

The pyramid is at Sakkarah, 16 miles south of Cairo, and from the announcement it is assumed that only the foundations have been discovered. The super-structures of most of pyramids have been carried off during past ages for use as building stone.

The newly-discovered pyramid belongs to the second dynasty of the Pharaohs. The nearby "stepped" pyramid of King Zoser of the third dynasty has hitherto been thought the oldest dressed stone building.

NEW SPHINXES

The base of the new pyramid covers 15,000 square yards, compared with the 23,100 square-yard area of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh, which dates from 1,400 B.C.

The Pyramid of Cheops, dating from the fourth dynasty, is one of the best maintained and contains six million tons of dressed stone. It is 481 feet high and contains a labyrinth of slanting corridors leading to the king's burial chamber.

Archaeologists discovered the avenue of sphinxes in an unexplored area between the temples of Karnak and Luxor in Upper Egypt.

It is believed to have been used by the Pharaohs for the celebrations of the Nile Flood Festival.

The Karnak-Luxor area, once part of the Upper Egypt capital of Thebes, has many avenues of sphinxes, some with lions' bodies and human heads, some with a ram's or a phoenix's head.

FILM SITE FIND

The new archaeological discoveries were made on sites where MGM are shooting for their new film, "Valley of Kings," starring Robert Taylor and Eleanor Parker.

Sakkarah contains the vast burial grounds of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis. In a royal tomb unearthed in April this year disclosed that the standard of civilisation in the first dynasty of Egypt was higher than formerly supposed.

In 1923 the opening of the tomb of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings, the place of Egypt's Pharaohs, captured the imagination of the world and stimulated popular interest in Egyptology. The valley is to the west of Thebes.—Router.

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

EVENTS OF THE YEAR
1. Windsor: In April, 2. Minister of the Interior, 3. 81, 4. Senator Earl Warren, 5. 1953, 6. August 5, Mr. Palk Too Chin, 7. Seven, 8. Lancelotti, 9. The Sch. 6, 10. London, 11. The time of the Coronation, 12. India, 13. The Commonwealth governments.

PEOPLE OF THE YEAR
1. The Lord High Steward, Admiral Viscount Cunningham, 2. Sir James Duff, 3. Sir John Gorton, 4. Lord Llewellyn, 5. Eric Shipton, 6. Des Hamman, 7. Sir Lionel Heald, 8. Dr. Ernest Rutherford, 9. Dr. George Drew.

THE YEAR AND THE ARTS
1. Mr. James Gunn, 2. A. Stravinsky (composer), 3. W. H. Auden (poet), 4. Sir John Gorton, 5. The sound in broadcast through an antenna, 6. A. Stravinsky, 7. D. E. Shaw, 8. D. E. Shaw.

THE YEAR AND SCIENCE
1. About ten times, 2. American rockets, 3. He was the first man to reach the summit of Everest, 4. More than 10 miles in a balloon, 5. Sir Edward Appleton, 6. Chemicals, 7. A. Stravinsky, 8. Standby powers to "make white water" and brighten colours.

THE YEAR AND SPORT
1. 1953, 2. The Sporting Times published an "obituary" on English cricket when Australia won the Oval Test by seven runs, 3. Standby powers to "make white water" and brighten colours, 4. Matthews played in the victorious side at the Cup Final, 5. The German side won the Derby at the 20th attempt, 6. Don Cowie, 7. 1953, 8. When Gerald Patterson of Australia beat Charles Kingsley of Great Britain in a three-hour match running to 10 goals, 9. Ben Hogan.

JAP EMBASSY RESTORED IN BERLIN

Berlin, Dec. 18.

The Senate of West Berlin has restored to the Japanese Embassy in Western Germany the building of the former Embassy in Berlin. It was announced here today.

Dr. Walter Conrad, Burgo-master of Berlin, received the Japanese Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Sono, and the Japanese Embassy Secretary, Mr. Kamikawa, who are now in Berlin to take charge of the building.

The two diplomats expressed the thanks of the Japanese Government for the return of the building.—France-Press.

Progress Of Malta Election

Valetta, Dec. 18.

Results in Malta's general election tonight showed Mr. Minto Labour Party ahead with 15 seats. The Nationalists, led by Dr. B. Oliver, the outgoing Prime Minister, had 13 seats, and the Malta Workers Party, headed by Dr. Paul Boffa, two seats.

There are still ten seats to be declared. The election, fought on constitutional rather than political issues, began last Saturday.

The constitutional point at issue is the recent British offer to transfer responsibility for Malta to the Colonial Office to the Home Office.

The Nationalists want Dominion status. The Labour Party wants complete economic integration with Britain, with the right of self-determination.

Voting was on a proportional representation system. In the last Parliament, the Nationalists had 15 seats, the Labour Party 14, the Workers Party seven, and the Constitutional Party four.—Router.

Canberra, Dec. 18.
Sir Arthur Fadden, the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, announced today that the Federal control of capital issues would end on December 31.

The control governs the raising of capital by means of share issues and other methods.—Router.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 4. Special, 8. Oliver, 9. Merrily, 10. Toasts, 11. Enlist, 12. Open a tin, 13. Postcard, 20. Potato, 21. Grated, 22. Peanuts, 23. Desert, 24. Toastier.
Down: 1. Portion, 2. Pirates, 3. Set tea, 5. Presents, 6. Carols, 7. At last, 13. Top of the 14, Parties, 15. Odds, 16. Love to, 17. Saints, 19. Turkey.

YESTERDAY'S BRITISH CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Meets, 4. Concur, 8. Spread, 10. Ideal, 12. Rested, 14. Bolapet, 17. Bids, 18. Estates, 20. Beggar, 22. Owl, 23. Tipster, 27. Lesser, 30. Score, 30. Nothing, 31. Scents, 32. Dwell, Down: 1. Miser, 2. Enrol, 3. Sharp, 5. Omit, 6. Credit, 7. Helix, 8. Deceit, 11. Debars, 13. Season, 15. Ever, 16. Angler, 18. Dene, 20. Bessie, 21. Calves, 24. Proud, 25. Title, 26. Regal, 28. Sent.



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m/v "MONKAY"

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Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on Monday, 22nd December, 1953.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 22nd December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before 15th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

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Agents
Hongkong, 15th December, 1953.

CIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

Hongkong, 15th December, 1953.

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To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged, dutiable goods are examined.

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All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before the 22nd December, 1953, or they will not be recognized.

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Hongkong, 15th December, 1953.



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Price, 20 cents per copy.
Saturdays 30 cents.
Subscription: \$6.00 per month.
Postage: China and Macao \$5.00 per month; U.K., British Possessions and other countries \$7.00 per month.
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